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April 20, 2012 • No 235

Club call on supporters as relegation fight reaches crunch time

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

CHIEFS at Sittingbourne Football Club are urging fans to turn out in force on Saturday as the club look to avoid the relegation trapdoor and a tumble back into the Kent League for the first time in 20 years.

The club need to claim just one point from their final two games to be mathematically certain of staying in the Ryman League.

And they hope that by getting a big crowd through the gates of Central Park on Saturday, it will help cheer manager Joe Dowley and his team to success.

Brickies chairman Andy Spice said: "Obviously we want to get as many people as possible along to cheer on the club, we need that extra support.

"If we have got people cheering us on it gives the team that extra push.

"If the players see there are no supporters or very few it makes a big difference psychologically.

"I'd urge everyone to come down on Saturday and help get us over the line. Hopefully we'll put on a good performance and get the result we need."

But their hopes of securing a draw in their final home match of the season tomorrow will be no easy task.

They face Godalming Town, who are fighting it out at the other end of the table, seeking to secure a win to keep their dreams of securing a play-off place alive.

Adds Mr Spice: "We want to win and get all three points. It's not going to be easy without a doubt."

Sittingbourne last left the Kent League in 1991, after winning the title and gaining back their Southern League



Continued on page 2

A POINT TO PROVE: A draw on Saturday will be enough to stay up for Brickies

GOVERNMENT

MP defies PM on caravan tax

TOURISM chiefs were dealt yet another blow this week after the Government sought to push ahead with plans to slap VAT on static caravans. The move, if approved, would have a big impact on caravan parks on Sheppey. But MP Gordon Henderson defied his party to oppose proposals. **PAGE 2**

TRANSPORT

Fresh criticism of airport plans

AHEAD of this summer's major consultation into proposals to build a multi-billion pound airport hub in the Thames Estuary, more aviation experts have come out opposing the plans. One points out that in order to house all the staff needed, a city the size of Manchester would have to be built. **PAGE 5**

LEISURE

Summer of festival love

THE variety of music festivals across Kent this summer are truly offering something for everyone, with some big names flocking to the county to perform. We take a look at all the major events and pose the question: isn't it about time you went to a festival this year? **PAGE 6**

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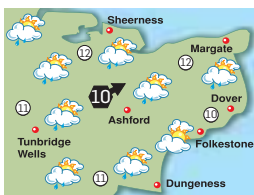
HOMES

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Weather



TODAY: A mix of sunshine and showers, these mainly during the afternoon. Feeling quite chilly. Moderate south-westerly winds. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	-	-	12.09	6.4
Margate	00.46	4.6	13.12	4.5
St Mary's	05.36	5.4	17.53	5.4

WEEK AHEAD

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Max	13C	12C	13C	14C	15C	15C
Min	5C	5C	6C	8C	8C	8C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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CONTACTS

Editor (news & sport): Chris Britcher
Email: chris.britcher@archant.co.uk
Address: Apple Barn, Smeeth, TN25 6SS
Editorial: News: 01303 817100
Leisure: 01303 817200
Sport: 01303 817183
Email: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising: Jobs/Notices: 01303 817056
Business: 01303 817056
Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk
Retail/Leisure/Motors: 01303 817150
Email: sales@kosmedia.co.uk
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SPORT

Football club calls for your support this weekend

Continued from front page

status. With some major investment into the team and promotion to the Southern League Premier Division soon afterwards, hopes of the

club rising further up the non-league pyramid came crashing down in the mid-1990s due to financial problems.

It was then the club moved out of Central Park to instead

play on the former training pitch.

Shifted over to the Ryman League South during a league restructuring, attendances have dipped, with this season seeing an average

crowd of just 135 supporters.

The club play their games on the Eurolink estate – not the pitch inside the main stadium. Saturday's match kicks-off at 3pm.

Tickets for adults cost £8, £3 for children and are free for accompanied under-fives.

■ **For a match preview and a round-up of local sport turn to our sports pages on page 46-47.**

TOURISM

MPs revolt over proposed caravan tax threat to our tourism industry

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

LONG-SUFFERING coastal communities already struggling with financial hardship could receive another knock as the Government looks to introduce a tax on static caravans.

Fears are that it could spark the downfall of Swale's tourism industry, particularly on Sheppey, which relies heavily on people holidaying in caravans on the island.

Currently, static caravans are tax rated at zero, in what the Government refers to as a 'tax loophole'. If plans go ahead, they will be brought in line with touring caravans; taxed at 20 per cent.

These plans prompted a revolt by Tory backbenchers this week, led by MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey Gordon Henderson, who described it as the most "ill conceived and badly thought out" part of this year's budget.

And tourism experts warned it could have a severe impact on the island in years to come.

Mr Henderson said: "The sale of holiday caravans will be very badly hit if they incur VAT at 20 per cent, and in turn the park-owned business will be hit because operators will have to increase their hire charges to balance their books, driving away even more much-needed visitors.

"Let us not forget that those visitors are not wealthy people; in the main, they are working class people who strive



HOLIDAY HOMES: There are fears Sheppey's tourism industry would be badly hit by the proposed tax on static caravans

for a better life by having their own holiday home here in Britain.

"In my view, the policy has been dreamt up by somebody who has never holidayed in a caravan park, has no idea of how the holiday park business operates and has no conception of the disastrous effect the policy will have on many coastal and rural communities."

Sheppey took a major knock earlier this year when steelworks Thamesteel went into administration, leaving 350 people unemployed.

Mr Henderson said the Government had worked hard with local councils to find ways to lessen the impacts by encouraging the growth of other industries, including tourism.

"We have been told consistently that the Government wants to help coastal

communities, which have become increasingly deprived over the past couple of decades," he said.

"It is deeply ironic it is striving to give coastal communities help up the ladder of prosperity while using its feet to kick away the very same ladder with this ill-thought-out proposal."

The consultation on caravan tax has been extended to May 18 due to sustained pressure from Tory MPs.

Tourism experts have also warned of the devastating impacts.

Nigel Martin, manager of tourism board Sheppey Matters – which has recently teamed up with the Sheppey Tourism Alliance to promote holidays on the island – said with such a high percentage of caravans, extension of VAT would have a "severe" effect.

"It wouldn't happen straight away, but as new units came in, that's when the impact would be felt," he said.

He warned that people renting the caravans would have to pay more as costs would be passed on to customers.

"This could have a severe impact," he said. "This doesn't really help with our tourism drive."

It comes just weeks after a major tourism initiative was launched designed to boost tourism figures into Sheppey – particularly among Kent and London holidaymakers.

Among the many plans put forward was a suggestion by the council to build a number of beach huts along the coastline which could then be sold.

A consultation into the plans is set to get under way.

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LITERATURE

Modern fundraisers walk in footsteps of Chaucer's pilgrims

By Chris Murphy

yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

A GROUP of Chaucer enthusiasts will be spotted strolling along the A2 today and tomorrow as they spend the week re-enacting the pilgrimage from London to Canterbury.

Some 20 fans of Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales embarked on the 65-mile walk which aims to raise some £7,000 for charity.

It is being staged to coincide with what is believed to be the 625th anniversary of the day Chaucer set as the beginning of his tales.

The group left Southwark in London on Wednesday, and then walked along the A2 through Dartford and Rochester before reaching Swale. They are expected to pass through Sittingbourne and Faversham at some point today en route to Canterbury, where they hope to complete their walk by Saturday.

Motorists will have spotted the group as some were wearing tunics and scarlet stockings. Each member will retell one of the stories as the group travel.

They have also been tweeting, in Chaucer's style, along the route including, on Thursday

morning: "Day 2: We have recched the M25, a highway wyth many carts."

They were led by 26-year-old writer and documentary-maker Henry Eliot, who has dreamed of carrying out the 65-mile pilgrimage ever since he studied Chaucer's poem at university.

Their destination is the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.

Watling Street, the great Roman road heading south-east out of London, which the pilgrims would have taken, is now the A2. And a succession of Travel Lodges and B&Bs are more likely to provide respite for the group at night, as opposed to the inns and taverns of the 14th century.

Mr Eliot said: "The idea came from wanting to hear all the tales in one go. I found that hardly anyone I met had read all the tales.

"I love walking, so I thought it would be a lot of fun to try and do the full walk and hear the tales and experience what these fictional pilgrims would have experienced."

This trip is also for charity, raising at least £7,000 for the National Literacy Trust.

Helen Cooper, a professor of medieval English at the University of Cambridge and a leading authority on The Canterbury Tales, gave a speech



IN CHARACTER: The group tweeted: "The pilgrims cross the fields of the yellow flowers"

to the pilgrims on Tuesday evening at a private dinner at the George Inn, next to the spot where the Tabard, the starting point of the pilgrimage, once stood.

Prof Cooper said: "The Canterbury Tales are more or less the equivalent of the complete works of Shakespeare.

"There's everything in there. It's very sophisticated, it's tragic, it's funny, it's devotional. It has a very sharp eye for the foibles of human nature. And it's brilliantly written in a magnificent range of styles, again comparable to Shakespeare."

The walkers aim to reach Canterbury on Saturday and take part in a special service at the cathedral on Sunday morning.

Search @canterbury2012 on Twitter for more updates on the pilgrimage.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Brekkie and business

MP Gordon Henderson hosts a business breakfast next week - giving firms the chance to discuss any issues currently affecting them.

The event takes place at the Swale Skills Centre on the Eurolink Industrial Estate on April 27 and is part of the Conservative politician's push to build up strong links with local business leaders. It gets under way at 8am and finishes at 10am. To book a place at the event visit the www.blinkss.co.uk website.

➔ Eco-award delight

A CUTTING-edge eco-project to cut residents' energy bills by nearly 40 per cent has helped housing association AmicusHorizon and Swale Heating scoop a major national award.

The two companies joined forces to enter the Housing Innovation Awards 2012 and won Most Innovative Refurbishment Project. The winning entry involved a £3.8 million project to retrofit 100 homes with the latest technological eco-measures at Rushenden on Sheppey.

➔ Yoga's peace mission

A FUNDRAISING event took place last weekend which looked to help yoga forge a peaceful resolution to the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

The Yoga Beats Conflict event took place at Sittingbourne's Swallows Leisure Centre. It seeks to fund trips to the disputed areas in the Middle East and engage both Palestinians and Israelis, together, in yoga sessions. Local yoga teacher Sarah Stephen explained: "It is helping to bring together two sides in conflict, by using yoga as a common ground."

REGENERATION

Ground-breaking marks the start of town's future

IT may not look like much now, but this is the beginning of a new dawn for Sittingbourne.

Last Friday marked the first spade in the ground at the former paper mill site as work begins on transforming the area into a waterside park, complete with major new supermarket.

Leader of Swale Borough Council, Andrew Bowles, joined MP Gordon Henderson, Scott Hammond of developers Essential Land and David Darbyshire of supermarket giant Morrisons to herald the regeneration of the site.

Cllr Bowles said: "Sittingbourne has been crying out for regeneration and I am really proud to be leading the borough through what will be a tremendously exciting period.

"We are already benefitting from the regeneration at Milton Creek Country Park and we are very close to signing a development agreement with the Spirit of Sittingbourne Consortium. That will trigger the physical regeneration of



Picture: PAUL JERREAT

the town centre. This is a real opportunity to embrace the investment in the area. It will mean jobs to come to the area, for residents to have greater opportunities, for the retail spend to stay in the borough to benefit the local economy more, and for children of the borough to grow up seeing the town grow around them.

"This journey begins with the foundations being dug on the mill site. We could not be more excited."

Phase one of the regenera-

tion involves the development of Morrisons, parking and servicing areas and building a petrol station.

Phase two is a proposed park which would separate the food store from the residential properties, while phase three begins with development of a waterside park on land formerly used as a working wharf for the paper mill.

Outline planning permission for the remaining phases have been sought as part of the original application.



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TRANSPORT

Airport plans would need 'a city the size of Manchester'

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

AVIATION experts have poured doubt on the feasibility of a Thames Estuary airport, adding further fuel to the fight against the controversial plans.

Chief executive of Birmingham International Airport Paul Kehoe argued that a single hub airport could not answer Britain's aviation needs and Britain's air control service NATS (National Air Traffic Services) said the estuary was the "worst spot" to locate an airport.

World renowned architect Lord Foster last year unveiled ambitious plans for a £50bn hub airport on the Isle of Grain, including a rail line and Thames crossing and involving the closure of Heathrow.

It followed an idea by London Mayor Boris Johnson, who suggested building a floating hub airport on reclaimed land in the estuary.

Writing for the weekly newsletter for the group An Executive View of British Travel, aviation expert Mr Kehoe said: "Heathrow already handles 70 million passengers a year. The Department for Transport estimates Britain will need space for 125 million more a year by 2030. There is no way that Heathrow, even with a third runway, can possibly answer this demand.

"And an estuary airport

would require a new town the size of Manchester to cater for the workers and their families – all in a region already cited as needing five new reservoirs."

He demanded the Government's upcoming aviation review first consider how best to use existing resources such as airports in Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester.

His comments came just as the boss of Britain's air control service NATS, Richard Deakin, voiced concern over the feasibility of the estuary plans by architect Lord Foster.

He said it was the "worst spot" to put an airport, arguing that it was directly under the convergence of arrival and departure flight paths for four of London's five airports. He said there was also the risk of strikes from thousands of birds.

The argument about the size of the area for staff working at the airport is not a new one.

Leader of Swale Borough Council, Andrew Bowles, said while he accepted the economic impact a new airport could have on the area, he stressed there were not enough houses to accommodate people moving to the area for jobs at the proposed hub.

He said: "If you look at employment numbers you need to encompass how many new houses would be needed.

"We would have to tarmac over the whole of north Kent to

provide housing."

Swale have, along with colleagues at Kent County Council and neighbouring Medway Council, been vehemently opposed to the airport plans, which would see huge disruption to Sheppey and put the rest of Swale right under the flight path."

Leader of Medway Council, Rodney Chambers said architect Lord Foster had failed to do research into the location.

He said: "It was clear last year he hadn't done his homework as he had placed his airport on top of the LNG plant – which stores one fifth of the UK's gas – and the power station there.

"It was obvious he had not actually left his office and travelled from London to have a look before releasing his fantasy pie in the sky scheme.

"Now it seems he didn't even bother talking to air traffic control body, NATS, which beggars belief.



Lord Foster said: "We believe the economic case for the Thames hub is compelling as Britain is already losing out to expanding European hubs.

"Our proposal comprehensively addresses the infrastructure needed to maximise the advantages of a new airport."

WORST SPOT: Lord Foster's design has been criticised for its lack of consultation with experts

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Trio set to face court

THREE people arrested following reports of alleged distraction thefts in Faversham and Sandwich have been charged.

Police received reports of thefts in a Faversham estate agent and shops in Sandwich on April 11. Officers later stopped three people travelling in a car on the A2 near Brenley Corner and arrested them. A boy and a girl, both 16 and from north London, plus a 30-year-old woman from Edmonton face court on April 24.

➔ Teen pleads guilty

TEENAGER William Willett from Faversham has pleaded guilty at court to thefts and a burglary in the area.

The 18-year-old of Goldfinch Close committed a burglary at a travel agent in Preston Street. Willett entered the store and stole £60 in cash. He was also charged following three shoplifting cases in the town at supermarkets in Forbes Road, Crescent Road and North Lane. He is now awaiting sentencing.

➔ Cruiser gets stranded

LIFEBOAT crews from Sheerness had to go to the rescue of a 25ft motor cruiser after it ran into trouble in the Swale last Sunday night, between Oare and Conyer creeks.

The emergency team found the boat near Harty Ferry but it became grounded and unable to be refloated. However, the three occupants of the boat were happy to remain onboard overnight, and picked up a tow in the daylight.

CRIME

Fine for cheat who claimed £6,000

A JUDGE has fined a Sittingbourne benefits cheat who ironically lived in Honesty Close after he was found guilty of falsely claiming more than £6,000 in housing and council tax benefit.

Shahid Haider, 50, was fined £300 and ordered to pay £100 costs after failing to declare a change in his circumstances that led to him falsely claiming the cash.

He pleaded guilty to making false representations in September 2010 when he completed one of the council's change of address forms.

Despite changing his job in the July of that year, he declared there had been no changes in his earnings or income contrary to Section 112 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992.

The council established the fraudulent claim in September 2011, when the claimant submitted a benefit intervention form. The

officer dealing with the claim referred the matter for investigation when he noticed there had been a previously unreported change of circumstances.

In total, £5,928 of housing benefit was falsely claimed and £476.32 of council tax benefit.

Janice Watts, benefits investigation manager at Swale Borough Council, said: "This fraud was detected as a result of a review of the claim that was made.

"However, claimants should not wait until they are invited to submit a review form to report changes in circumstances. Claimants have a responsibility to report all changes in their household circumstances promptly to avoid overpayments occurring and the possibility of a criminal conviction."

To report a change in your personal circumstances, call the council on 01795 417555.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Why there is a festival for you just around the corner this summer

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

Why I hope you never have to ring this number: 01795 477505

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It is perhaps fitting that into the Garden of England this summer will be pushed some of the world's most successful ageing rock stars to soak up the warming sunshine of adulation.

And before they head off for a well-earned snooze, there will be the small case of receiving a cheque big enough to buy an oast house or two to stroke tenderly as they are driven at speed out of the county.

Because this summer the music festival scene in Kent is dominated by stars of a certain age. Not, of course, that there is any fault with that. After all, those with longevity have straddled generations for good reason. As organisers of one annual event know only too well.

The Hop Farm Festival has quickly established itself as the county's big-hitter. The debate over whether it is the county's best is for another day, but with veteran no-nonsense promoter Vince Power at the helm, it is not afraid to splash the cash in cornering the 'legends' market.

Thus for the three days it occupies the Pad-dock Wood tourist attraction between June 29 and July 1 it will bring the likes of Bob Dylan, 70;

Ray Davies, 67; Peter Gabriel, 62; and even Bruce Forsyth - a mere 84.

And while the likes of Suede and Primal Scream are sprinkled into the mix, it's not going to drag the average age down that dramatically. It is, however, going to drag in a lot of folk who come armed with that all important 'disposable income'.

They come, they bring their kids, they spend lots of money. In this day and age it is the festival bean counter's dream.

Which is indeed what they did last year when it served up the Eighties heroes of Morrissey and Prince, in addition to The Eagles, to entertain the sun-blessed crowds.

It's not worth contemplating that both solo performers - at 53 and 52 respectively - are young enough to be Dylan's kids.

Among those Mr Power had been hoping to sign up for the festival was Leonard Cohen. But when the dates didn't suit they came up with a compromise.

The Canadian singer-songwriter is set to play two 10,000-capacity outdoor shows, all-seated, at the Hop Farm in September.

At 77, Mr Cohen will certainly not feel out of place as he follows in the footsteps of the summer



three-day event.

The music promoter explains: "We have an agreement with the owners of the Hop Farm that we can hire the venue out and Leonard Cohen was a great opportunity to do just that. The A Day at the Hop Farm proved ticket sales were strong and so we're set to add an extra date."

But watching pensioners tread the boards? Well, it's not very rock n roll is it?

For that we have to look elsewhere. And the county's other major festival - the critically acclaimed Lounge on the Farm.

Last year it did what rock music really ought to do and upset the neighbours.

As a result, the police called for its licence on

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the working Merton Farm (the cow shed venue is next door to, well, a shed full of cows), in Canterbury, to be withdrawn.

Fortunately for all concerned, rock's trademark middle finger was not deployed and instead everyone got around the table and acted like adults. The result? A nice new licence and a string of conditions which should ensure much fun is still had, while those living within earshot of the site itself, don't spend the weekend tutting.

Unlike the Hop Farm, Lounge is a far more contemporary affair and one which embraces its roots. Much of the food and drink is locally produced, and the atmosphere is more village fete



TUNE IN:
Being 'too old' to attend a festival is no longer an excuse which carries any weight given Kent's truly varied line-up this summer

than anything more challenging. It's a hard one to dislike. Unless, it would appear, you live next door to it.

Headliners for its July outing include Emeli Sande, The Wombats and The Charlatans. By the time 70s funksters Chic and Dexys Midnight Runners have been added in, it seeks to cater for several generations, underlining its 'eclectic' music line-up tag.

Meanwhile, it would seem the early 1990s indie/Britpop revival is just around the corner. Organisers of Quex Park's Sound Island Festival in July have put together an intriguing line-up which sees Manchester's finest James headline, supported by the likes of Inspiral Carpets, Echo & The Bunnymen, Space and Cast. Expect a lot of 30-somethings digging out their old Carter USM shirts for the occasion.

Day two of the non-camping festival will see perhaps the youngest outing of the summer as Olly Murs and Rizzle Kicks perform – reminding us music is a young person's game deep down.

Back at the Hop Farm, what's billed as the

UK's top reggae and dub weekender comes in August with the likes of Freddie McGregor, Frankie Paul and Dawn Penn performing in what could, should the weather be kind, be the surprise hit of the summer. Moving to Kent for the first time, One Love has the festival favourites of 'peace and love' at its heart.

And last, but by no means least, comes Medway's series of Castle Concerts – which seek to tick a box for most generations. There's soul legends Billy Ocean and Alexander O'Neal, throwaway pop kings and queens Steps, classical treat the Royal Philharmonic, and Jools Holland.

This week even saw Sex Pistols frontman John Lydon confirm his Public Image Limited would perform at a new one-day festival, Music Event One on July 28, in Rochester along with the Wedding Present.

Getting to a festival is never a particularly cheap affair.

Yet Kent this summer offers up a rather tasty looking smorgasbord which, if nothing else, means you save on petrol money.

FESTIVALS A DRIVE AWAY...

Latitude, Southwold, Suffolk

When? July 12-15

Who? Paul Weller, Elbow, Bon Iver, Ben Howard

Why? Possibly the most middle-class festival of the lot, it trades as much on its literary, comedy, poetry and film content, as it does its high calibre of music.

Rewind, Henley, Oxford

When? August 18-19

Who? The Bangles, Jimmy Summerville, Adam Ant, OMD, Rick Astley, T'Pau

Why? At some point the 80s revival will run out of steam... but not yet. The hits and act heavy line-up offers considerable bang for your buck.

V Festival, Chelmsford, Essex

When? August 18-19

Who? The Stone Roses, The Killers, Snow Patrol, Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds

Why? Extremely easy to reach courtesy of the joys of the Dartford Crossing, V's budget is envied by everyone, and by securing the Roses' only UK festival show it has real kudos this year.

Reading Festival, Reading, Berks

When? August 24-26

Who? The Cure, Foo Fighters, Kasabian, Florence & The Machine, You Me at Six

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FOOD

Creek is in the market for success as Sunday stalls draw the crowds

By Chris Murphy

yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

ORGANISERS of a new farmers' market in Faversham are praying for good weather, so their steady growth turns in to a flourish.

Janet Creed planted the seeds for the new venture about a month ago, and since then the Sunday market at Faversham Creek has been gradually growing, and with an alcoholic license set to be granted, other business owners may also be putting out their stalls.

Mrs Creed said: "We charge £15 for a decent sized pitch and have almost 20 stalls every week. The weather has played its part, but we are hoping for a great summer to really draw in the crowds.

"This is a lovely part of the town and is also very popular. A top quality farmers' market is just what's needed to keep the people coming along.

"We already have a great variation in stalls, and markets like this also helps put money into other businesses around the area. It is one more draw to boost the local economy."

The market is at Standard Quay and sits amid existing businesses on the site.

Once there, visitors can see the old sail-powered Thames barges that plied their trade in London, as they tend to be moored and repaired at the dockside.

The decision was taken before its launch for the market to run every week – an ambitious target for a fledgling market, but one Mrs Creed believed was vital to ensure repeat trade.

She said: "Many farmers' markets take place every two weeks or just once a month. We want to be here each and every week so people use us as a regular part of their weekly shopping cycle. So we become a habit.

"Plus there's nothing worse than discovering something only to realise you have to wait another two weeks before the market returns before you can buy it again."

Mrs Creed said the Monks Granary, which dates back to 1791 and a flea market are all part of a regeneration scheme for the area to promote a vibrant waterside community.

There is also a garden centre and tea room.

She added: "The farmers market is held between 10am and 2pm, and we do insist on all local produce, which can set us aside from many others.

"Keeping local businesses alive is a key aim, and by holding something like the market we can raise interest in so many other local companies."

To book a stall contact Janet Creed by email at sales@quayside-properties.co.uk or alternatively call 01795 597616.



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News

OLYMPICS

Volunteer to be a part of the Olympic Torch's visit



By James Benjamin

yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

COUNCIL chiefs are appealing for volunteers to help act as marshals for when the Olympic Torch comes to Faversham.

The torch is scheduled to appear on the afternoon of July 19 – its only stop-off in Swale as it spends three days in the county ahead of its arrival at the Olympic Stadium.

Local heroes will carry the torch as it snakes its way through the streets.

In order to make the event run smoothly, Swale Borough Council has now launched an appeal for volunteer event

marshals to meet its requirement as part of its event plan to ensure the safety and comfort of the public and assist in the successful relay of the flame.

A council spokesman explained: "A number of individuals and local organisations have registered an interest in supplying their services as local volunteers and now we are ready to formalise the process by providing a simple application form for willing marshals to complete."

Andrew Bowles, the council's leader, said "This really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of an historic event in Faversham, and to say that you

were there. We would really appreciate the help of as many volunteers as possible to show the world how Faversham can pull together and what an inspiring community it is.

"Please help if you can on the day and play a unique part in this leg of the relay."

For further details and to request the application form, contact the council's project officer Martin Goodhew at martingoodhew@swale.gov.uk or write to him at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT. Completed applications need to be returned by May 11.

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News

LITERATURE

Last opportunity to pen your entry to illustrate MP's 'Litter Angel' book

By James Benjamin
yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

ARTISTS wanting to become the illustrator of a children's book penned by local MP Gordon Henderson have just over a week left to enter the competition.

The Conservative politician opened up the chance to provide the drawings for his book *The Litter Angel*.

It features a tale about the dangers of littering.

Mr Henderson wrote the book as part of his campaign to teach young children about the effects of litter on our environment and has read the story to pupils at a number of schools across Sittingbourne and Sheppey.

Now he wants to get the book published to raise money for local charity, Litter Angels, and is looking for a local artist



DRAWING A WINNER: MP Henderson is after local help

to illustrate the book.

To enter the competition, Swale-based artists are being asked to submit one A4 framed

piece of work using a scene from the story as a guide.

Completed work should then be sent or hand delivered to Mr Henderson's constituency office at Top Floor, Unit 10 Periwinkle Court Business Centre, Church Street, Milton Regis, Sittingbourne, ME10 2JZ.

The winner, who will be chosen by Mr Henderson, will become the official illustrator of the *Litter Angels* book and will receive a percentage of the royalties from sales of the book.

Mr Henderson said: "I am aware many of my constituents have artistic talents, and so I hope they will take advantage of this exciting opportunity and will be able to bring the story to life."

The closing date for entries is April 30. For more information about the competition or the charity, Litter Angels, see www.litterangels.org.

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Damp is not always easy to spot but tell-tale signs to look for are a musty smell, stained or peeling wallpaper, bubbling paint, rust marks around nails on skirting boards and mould growth on walls.

Why is it important to treat damp?

It's easy to ignore the signs of damp, but if left untreated it can get much worse, damaging the very fabric of your home and posing serious health risks, especially for those with medical conditions such as asthma or rheumatism.

What can I do about it?

There are many types of damp problems so it's best to leave it to the professionals. You can start by calling Holland Damp Proofing. One of our specialists will give you honest advice and if we think our system is suitable to solve your damp problem we will arrange a free visit. Since we came to the UK in 1999 we have helped thousands of people rid their homes of damp.

How does the Holland Damp Proof System® work?

The system was originally developed in The Netherlands where 60% of homes are built below sea level – so it's got a long and successful history. The idea is simple: draw out the moisture and the

damp will disappear. This involves a series of small, damp-regulating bricks which neatly fit into specially-prepared niches in the external walls of your home, close to the ground. These cleverly allow air to flow into the brick chambers and out again – circulating airflow through the inside of the wall which evaporates the moisture, drying out the wall and allowing it to breathe.



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It doesn't matter whether you have a Victorian terrace, period property, a church...or even a castle...the system is suitable for virtually all types of property including use on cavity, solid, stone and brick walls.

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What are the advantages over chemical damp proofing?

The system is a great alternative to chemical damp proofing which can be messy and involve hacking off plaster work on walls inside your home – a big upheaval! Over time chemical barriers will eventually break down... and the damp will come back. Most importantly with the Holland Damp Proof System® there is no danger of breathing in any toxic chemicals.

How much does it cost?

The system is an investment to keep your home dry and protected for the future. The cost of installing the Holland Damp Proof System® is similar to chemical damp proofing, but as there will be no mess, no replastering and no repeat treatments you will save money in the long term. And with our 20-year guarantee, you will also have total peace of mind.

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(T&C's below)


LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389****JACKIE** late 40's, attractive, slim, fun to be with, looking for friendship, maybe more. Enjoys walking, nights in and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389283****BERYL** 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503****ANNE** romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386225****LADY** 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387743****ANNE** 60, Christian, WLTm similar person. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390496****AFFABLE** serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music. WLTm genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411****JACQUELINE** 51, 5ft 8ins, green eyes, auburn hair, likes theatre, walks, seeks honest, down to earth, sincere fun man for good times, friendship and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387539****ALICE** 18yr old tall blonde carefree student, looking for exciting male 18-30 for good times only. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387107****MANDY** 45, 5ft 6ins, attractive, blue/green eyes, trendy, seeks tall, N/S male of similar age with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384555****HI** I'm Jo, petite, pretty, fed up with own company, seeking male to help me get back into the swing of things, for uncomplicated fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387103****DEBBIE** slim outgoing approachable attractive lassie, 33yrs, GSOH, sporty, looking for non serious fun male for friendship, maybe more. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387101****CHARLIE** young 37yr old blonde attractive nurse, OHAC, no ties, new to the area and dating scene, looking to find love with genuine available male, 25-42 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387051****LAURA** single female 22yrs, blonde, blue eyes, very attractive with curly figure, WLTm older male for fun times only. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387049****TASHA** single working mum seeks light hearted man, 35-45 who also likes to enjoy life to the full for passion, romance and tic. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387047****60YR** old attractive female, seeks non drinker for dog walking, theatre, galleries, photography and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386231****LADY** 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331****SENSUAL** 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309****BECKY** 34 single mum of one, GSOH, looking with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving. WLTm Mr Right if he is out there? **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305****EMALE** 48, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, seeks male, 40-50 with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387877****MARION** 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383159****VAL** compassionate outgoing female with a big heart and no preconceptions just looking for love with similar minded guy. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383155****CARIBBEAN** young lady, 30, caring, genuine, seeks young Christian gent, 30-40 who is dedicated to God for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386117****SUSIE** tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163****DEBBIE** 5ft 8ins, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 8ins, slim, 47, likes gym, cinema, bowling, meals out, concerts, single mum, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390362****SLIM** tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071****NICOLE** lonely and looking for love, cultured, intelligent, beautiful, creative and looking for sincere male for mature loving ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388145****JACQUELINE** blue eyed attractive petite blonde, fit/active and social looking to meet similar kind male for ltr and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388137****TRIXI** looking for older respectful gentleman for fun times only. I am bubbly very fun and can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388135****YVONNE** professional 35yr old female looking for someone to relax with, affectionate attractive and looking for same. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388111****SANDY** slim attractive green eyed female, loves romantic walks, animals, WLTm loving caring guy for tactile relationship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388109****CHRISTIAN** lady, seeks Christian man, 58 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386565****JUNE** good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tic. Genuine replies only pls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301****46YR** old young, curly single mum, easygoing, caring, GSOH, wants to live and love, seeks honest man, 35-55 for genuine relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387143****ATTRACTIVE** lady 45, medium build, fair hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for companionship and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987****TARA** 5ft big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731****NIAMH** slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real woman. Or at least thinks he can. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051****EMMA** pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373****LYNDA** very attractive attached female, own transport and willing to travel, seeking similar mature male for extra circular activities. Must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386653****JO** 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for adult fun and more. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043****48YR** old female, seeks tall, caring male in the West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388974****WENDY** cuddly 52yr old romantic, GSOH, N/S, likes reading, cinema, meals out, seeks male, 45-55 with GSOH to be my knight in shining armour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389614****DEBBIE** 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625****SUE** young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting and sensual, seeking single tactile male. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275****LISA** blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks fun loving, adventurous male, 45-52 for friendship, fun and who knows what else. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389020****BECKY** single 29yr old slim female, attractive, blonde, seeking good times with fun male who does not take life too seriously. Status/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383057****CHRIS** outgoing secretary, enjoys nice wine, romantic meals, looking for easygoing male to get to know and just see what develops. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383055****KIRSTY** 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive, and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051****TIA** 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081****JENNY** very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and to get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386303****PETITE** French lady, likes to be spoiled/pampered, seeks gent, 40-55 for discreet liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579****GWEN** lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTm male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443****CARMEL** blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001****TRACY** 39, fun blue eyed busty blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTm professional male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045****JO** 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for adult fun and more. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043****LISA** attractive dental nurse 25, been hurt in the past, looking for romantic male, 35-50yrs for loving friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382201****KATHY** 49, seeking male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389362****48YR** old female, slim, looking for tall knight in shining armour for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389348****ANGELA** divorced lady, seeking companion to share days out, cinema, meals etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387350****LOVELY** tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159****KAREN** 58, 5ft 6ins, medium build, fun loving, romantic, caring, extrovert, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387902****DEBS** 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273****51YR** old lady, seeking fun loving, genuine man for socialising and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389840****KEELY** blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, busty, stays at home too much and looking for casual fun with older male with OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377****WENDY** enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079****SARAH** 40's black hair, blue eyes, curly, outgoing, N/S, likes meals out, cosy nights in, seeking tall, good looking male who loves a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388626****GEM** 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, broadminded and extremely easygoing, WLTm genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369****ANN** slim blonde female, lovely big blue eyes, great personality, outgoing, employed, OHAC, WLTm caring 40's male for adult fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382085****ANGELA** Scottish female, dark hair, green eyes, attractive, new to the area, no ties, OHAC, seeks gentle male for good times and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382227****KATIE** pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship. Interested? **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382205****CLARE** petite dark haired attractive female with lots of interests, seeking male for mutual companionship. Must be respectful and discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382203****LISA** attractive dental nurse 25, been hurt in the past, looking for romantic male, 35-50yrs for loving friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382201****48YR** old female, slim, looking for tall knight in shining armour for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389348****ANGELA** divorced lady, seeking companion to share days out, cinema, meals etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387350****LOVELY** tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159****KAREN** 58, 5ft 6ins, medium build, fun loving, romantic, caring, extrovert, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387902****TALL** long haired brunette, slim attractive, big green eyes, WLTm gent for mutual companionship, maybe leading to more. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376559****SUE** long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853****WARM** hearted woman, 48, seeks man with GSOH, late 40's to early 50's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380277****JULIE** attractive blonde with strong family values seeking Mr Right. If you have a GSOH and are loving, pls reply. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384041****SEXY** black beauty Lucy, 33, WLTm clean solvent male for daytime fun together and mutual spoiling. Cannot accommodate. 40-69yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385347****KEIRA** 34yr old very attractive naughty female, fed up of staying in alone, looking for likeminded naughty boy for fun times. Can be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384055**

Men Seeking

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.**Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 (T&C's below)****DEREK** 47, loving, caring, seeks black lady to build LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390782****MALE** 44, seeking female, 27-47, most like pubs, tv, dvds, sport, nights in, walks, cycling, swimming etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390772****MALE** 48, own business, average looks, medium build and looking for love. Must like the good things in life, 30-55yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390746****6FT** male, 38, dark hair, brown eyes, likes sals, gardening, swimming, seeks female, 38-50 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390700****32YR** old male, seeks understanding female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390696****JOE** 60, looking for attractive female, 40-55 with GSOH for lunch dates, socialising and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390686****53YR** old male, seeks similar female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389469****56YR** old easygoing male, tactile, seeks lady, 48-65 who can handle a hot blooded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389367****FRAN** early 60's, long dark hair, green eyes, seeks guy 52-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385769****SHARON** 37yr old attractive feminine size 10, employed, OHAC, single mum of one, seeking similar lonely male with mature outlook. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385655****TARA** charismatic, optimistic Irish entrepreneur, sensual, attractive, intelligent, seeks genuine male to spoil, enjoy good times and let just take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383121****DIANE** single fit female, no children, OHAC, lots of free time, looking for a nice man to get to know and hopefully fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385351****MALE** 56, tall, slim, N/S, up for anything, seeks NS female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385045****GOOD** looking fun, friendly, easygoing, sincere male, 46, slim-medium build, hazel eyes, dark hair, nice smile, seeks attractive, caring lady for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385923****ADE** early 40's, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for lady for mutual fun and good times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384495****TOM** 51, likes keep fit, walks, meals out, seeks female of similar age for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384169****MALE** 51, seeks attractive 40-50's female with GSOH for friendship and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383851****ED** 57, smart, GSOH, likes cooking, DIY, computer games, travel, looking for female for LTR and to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383839****GOOD** looking male, seeks female for fun times, leading to possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389190****EDUCATED** professional man seeks interesting lady, 60 plus for laughter, good company, conversation and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383549****BRIAN** 58 looking for male of similar age or older. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390100****ROB** 40, slim, professional, likes CD, looking for daytime meets with similar male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390002****40YR** old male, 5ft 11ins, slim, fit, likes outdoors, seeks sub guy for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389902****ATTRACTIVE** white male, 38, seeks black/mixed race/Asian female, 26-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387317****48YR** old male, own business, medium build, average looks but big heart. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387313****ANDREW** 53, 5ft 8ins, slim, likes music, nights out, looking for female 35-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390094****SINGLE** dad, 6ft 1ins, forgotten what life is, help! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390540****MALE** 5ft 9ins, brown hair, muscular, seeking well spoken Sussex pretty female, under 46, N/S for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390490****STEVE** 48, good looking, single, likes theatre, nights out, history, seeks lady, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390476****TONY** 5ft 9ins, dark hair, slim-medium build, outgoing, seeks female, 25-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390468****DAVID** 58, professional, slim looking for lady for discreet relationship. East Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387157****57YR** old gent, kind, romantic, likes walks, travel, looking for woman, preferably Pompey fan. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388447****MALE** 56, broadminded, passionate, easygoing, seeks lady, 48-65 wanting, passion and exciting friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388417****GENUINE** sincere male, 50, slim, blue eyes, dark hair, fun loving, good company, seeks female to rediscover a full life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385631**

Gay Seeking

MALE 42, clean shaven, seeks younger playmate for fun and games. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385465****ASSERTIVE** guy looking for TV/CD for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390130****JOHN** 61, CD, looking for similar male for fun and pleasure, 55 plus preferred. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390118****Contact members by phone:****0906 515 7112 0906 515 7114 0844 800 1188****Contact members by TEXT!**

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News

COMPETITION

WIN! Key to the Castle tickets and find out what the butler saw

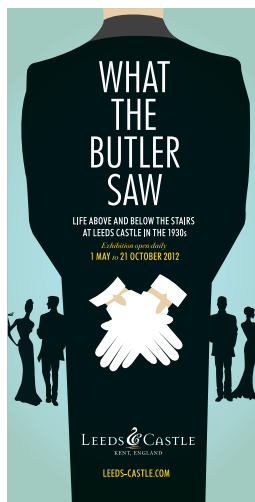
A NEW exhibition, called What the Butler Saw, will tell the stories from above and below stairs life at Leeds Castle in the 1930s, through the eyes of the servants.

And we have five pairs of Key to the Castle tickets to give away, which let the winners visit the exhibition, which runs from May 1–October 21, and also visit the castle for a whole year.

As Downton Abbey and Upstairs Downstairs return this year, highlighting the lives of the owners and the servants of great houses in the 1920s and 30s, a special exhibition comes to Leeds Castle to tell the real stories of life at "the loveliest castle in the world".

Leeds Castle was a playground for the rich and famous, as Lady Baillie entertained high society. And of course there were also more than 30 servants in the castle who met the needs of the family and their guests.

Discover how former owner Lady Baillie's life in London society and her household in



the country is mirrored in the popular dramatisations.

Entrance to this exhibition is included with your Key to the Castle ticket at £19.75 for adults; £17.50 for seniors and visitors with disabilities (carer free); £12.50 for children (under 4s free). Tickets are

valid for 12 months so you can pay once and visit all year.

To enter our competition just answer this question **In which decade is What the Butler Saw set?**

A 1930s, B 1940s, C 1950s

To enter text KOS followed by BUTLER and your answer then your first name, surname address and postcode to 80058, e.g. KOS BUTLER C JOHN SMITH 2 THE STREET, TOWN, DV2 2GT.

Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate. Winners will be selected from all correct entries. The promoter's decision is final.

Usual terms and conditions apply. Please note if you should enter after the closing deadline of May 1, 2012, your entry will not valid, but you may still be charged. SMS services are provided by Velti DR Ltd, SE1 8ND, telephone 020 7633 5020.

Alternatively enter by post to What the Butler Saw Competition, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS.

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OPINION

Ambition breeds success

Director of Turner Contemporary Victoria Pomery reflects on the role of the gallery in regeneration and the achievements of its first year

TURNER Contemporary, Kent's flagship gallery, celebrated its first birthday this week.

Designed by leading British architect Sir David Chipperfield, the gallery was opened by Tracey Emin and Jools Holland in April, 2011, and has already welcomed more than half a million visitors.

Kent County Council demonstrated its ambition and bold vision in supporting the development of the gallery, showing courage and determination in using culture as a driver for regeneration.

There were many who doubted whether a gallery would ever be built in Margate and even more who were sceptical about whether it would attract visitors. The great news is that Turner Contemporary has had a phenomenal first year of operation and is set for another wonderful year ahead.

Over the past year, we have undertaken research into our

audiences and the impact we are having. The gallery has already delivered benefits to the Kent economy of £13.8m, supporting new businesses and jobs, and raising the profile of Margate and Kent in media around the world.

Admittedly these are early days – we've only just marked our first birthday – and regeneration takes time – its not just about improvements to buildings and the public realm, it is about changing mind sets. Margate Old Town has already been transformed and we feel confident more will follow. This will take commitment and strategic leadership from partners such as KCC, Thanet District Council and the private sector.

The arts are relevant to everybody's lives and the gallery is committed to enriching the cultural life of Kent.

Since opening we have presented four major exhibitions and brought Auguste Rodin's

magnificent work *The Kiss* to Margate. There has always been a least one work by JMW Turner in the gallery and all our exhibitions have been free.

Currently we have a critically acclaimed exhibition, *Turner and the Elements*, which visitors have travelled from near and far to see.

The gallery is a major educational resource used by schools, colleges and universities as well as community groups and individuals. We run a Schools and Learning Programme, which welcomed more than 6,000 school children in our first year. In addition, we organise talks, music and dance performances. The programme changes frequently so there is always something different to see and experience.

Last November Her Majesty the Queen made a visit to the gallery. Whilst here she met schoolchildren, artists and members of the community, all



6699

The gallery has already delivered benefits to Kent's economy of £13.8m

of whom have had some connection to the gallery. It was a day of celebration.

Turner Contemporary is rooted in Margate but we are already making a significant contribution to the cultural infrastructure of the UK. This summer we will be showing an exhibition of new work by Tracey Emin, part of the London 2012 Festival linked to the Olympics, and new commissions by three highly regarded artists – Lindsay Seers, John Smith and Mark Wallinger.

Nationally, we know the arts support tourism, inward investment, education and enhance the UK's profile. We are extremely fortunate to have so many fantastic arts organisations around the country and Kent should feel proud that it has Turner Contemporary.

Thank you to everyone who supported us in our opening 12 months and I hope you will visit us in our second year.

KOS COMMENT

Be sure before giving fracking the go ahead

FRACKING had been relatively unknown until it hit the headlines after causing two earth tremors.

It's now been claimed that while the gas extraction method can cause earthquakes, this can be avoided under strict rules. But there's also the threat of water contamination, which is even more concerning, not just for those living near potential fracking sites in Kent, but the whole county.

So is it really worth the risk? Some would argue that fracking produces less carbon emissions than other techniques and is a cheap option of energy supply. But should this be at the detriment of people's health? The Government needs to be 100 per cent sure before it gives it the green light.

100 days and counting

THIS week the 100-day countdown started for the Olympics.

That's just over three months until the world's greatest sporting event descends on our doorstep.

So let's get excited and make the most of it; it will be a once in a lifetime special event.

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Please vote for minority party

JOHN Dutton (Letters, April 15) is quite right when he says people should "vote against the usual suspects".

His letter is totally right and raises some accurate points. The people of Bradford West got it right recently and George Galloway's win was not just about stay-at-home Labour supporters but in fact the electorate actually getting out and voting.

People should treat local elections seriously and vote, and on this occasion should vote for minor parties (not BNP please) to show their displeasure at the incompetent governments we have had to suffer over the last many number of years.

On another point, according to the latest opinion polls 48 per cent of people want the UK to leave the EU yet only one party – as far as I know – (Ukip)

promises they will leave the EU if elected. However Ukip never receive 48 per cent of the vote.

The problem with the electorate of this country is that they only vote for the main parties as they are the only ones that can win. If they voted as they believe then none of the main parties would be in government, and these three parties would therefore not be the main parties any more.

I urge every elector who has a vote to think before voting then vote for what they agree with and not because of the colour of their rosette.

If there is a Loony candidate then please vote Loony, otherwise vote for a minor party but not a racist one.

**Sheikh Mihand
(AKA Jackie Davidson)
Sittingbourne Loonies**

Independent means local

ARTICLES and letters in the local press are appearing

advocating the electorate vote for local independent candidates on May 3.

Could this advice be right and in the interests of Kent? Let's examine the evidence.

We live under a local Conservative majority whose candidates appear to be linked to the 'Westminster bubble'. Therefore not a surprise that local politics reflect national policies regardless of Kent's particular needs.

Under this system we appear to have the biggest and deepest potholes in our roads; an inadequate rural transport system as highlighted by the lack of buses, especially to our new hospital; no real progress in the much-needed A21 dualling; a lack of housing resulting in overcrowding of family homes.

We also have a planning system which appears unable to be even handed, penalising law-abiding citizens who adhere to the rules while permitting abuse by developers, travellers and the usual

suspects; and the lack of youth facilities keeping our children interested and away from drugs and street corners.

Therefore a vote for independent candidates would result in Kent's local problems being pursued and solved, by local representatives who would be free to pursue with single mindedness and vigour to the benefit of residents, without the obstacle of national politics.

Therefore the answer is 'yes' – vote for independent candidates locally, even if your national loyalty is blue.

**Edward La Coste
Lamberhurst**

Vanity surgery is not needed

THE news often makes my blood boil.

We keep hearing about whether the NHS should rescue victims of misadventure regarding defective cosmetic

surgery. This would certainly be an expensive recovery mission, but why was there no serious discussion on the topic years ago?

There are 14-year-olds saving up for their 'jobs' as we speak, you'll hear it casually discussed on the bus, high street and in public places.

Perfectly healthy young women are being sucked into this money-making monster for the most spurious of reasons. Is it done to create greater acumen in business for women; or just to impress other women; or in the quest to find Mr Right?

Things like this need to be discussed earnestly. Nobody says anything.

**G Brenchley
Whitstable**

Confusion on royal deaths

I ENJOYED your history article very much in last week's paper. The Kent Remembered

series is always entertaining.

However, I think you have muddled your kings who were 'seconds'. The cause of Richard II's death is unknown, speculation being that he was starved to death.

It is around Edward II that the story of execution by red hot poker has grown, despite the fact he was probably strangled.

The myth did, however, allow a very good band to assume the name of Edward II and the Red Hot Polkas, later relaunched as e2K.

**Bill Farey,
by email**

Don't leave them to starve

I want to draw readers' attention to an unfolding humanitarian crisis that is going largely unnoticed by the world.

In West Africa, more than 10.5 million people are running out of food and starvation is imminent.

While no amount of funding can make the rain fall in the region, there is still time to minimise the devastation by helping families to prepare for this emergency and stop them from running out of food completely.

I support the group CARE International UK, which has been working in the region for many years and is working to stop this turning into a humanitarian catastrophe while raising the alarm about the situation.

I urge your readers to help – please visit the website www.careinternational.org.uk/west-africa and make a donation, however small, to help this worthy cause.

It is a well known fact that every £1 invested in avoiding disaster at an early stage saves at least £4 that would be spent on disaster relief at a later stage.

That is a good reason to act now, but the real reason to take action has to be that we have it in our power stop the suffering of children who, through no fault of their own, face the increasing struggle of hunger and starvation in the coming months.

Responding now will save money but more importantly it will save lives.

**Parin Anderson,
Hollingbourne,
Maidstone**

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Editor: Ian Patel
Address: Apple Barn, Smeth, Kent TN25 6SS
Editorial:
Telephone 01303 817100;
Fax 01303 817002;
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Telephone 01303 817150;
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Edited by **Adam Aiken**



Investment plan leaves me short on life cover

Q I AM 75 and I have a Standard Life variable investment plan, taken out in 1992, and due to mature next month. Part of my £30 monthly premiums bought me life cover of £5,400, which the company now says will cease, leaving me with no life insurance. Is this acceptable treatment or can something be done to continue my life cover?

A THE variable investment plan was a fixed 20-year scheme that mixed investment with insurance on your life, and you have told me that when the plan matures you will receive almost £9,000. Profits on the scheme were based partly on Standard Life's 1992 predictions of how many policyholders would die within the lifetime of the plan, and you cannot change this – but you can start a fresh life policy now. For example, a whole-of-life policy costing roughly £31 a month in premiums to Zurich Insurance (08705 221311) will get you the same £5,400 of cover, though without the investment element now, because of your age.

Q MY ex-husband has been told by his pension provider that since 1998, he has been overpaid £900. It proposes reclaiming this by underpaying him in the coming months. Can they do this?

A IF someone accidentally overpays, the pension provider can reclaim its money. This applies to pensions just like anything else. But two rules may help your ex-husband. A law called the Limitation Act normally restricts recovery of payments made more than six years ago, unless the payer can somehow argue that it was impossible then to spot the mistake. And there is a principle called the 'change of position'. If your ex-husband made decisions based on the overpaid pension that would now cause difficulties if reversed, he is entitled to resist repayment demands.

Q A RELATIVE wants me to sign as guarantor for her bank loan application. I do not like to say no, but if she gets into arrears and I have to pay the bank, could I then claim the money from her?

A YOU could certainly try, but if your relative could not afford the loan repayments, what are the chances that she would be able to pay you? The best that can be said is that her financial circumstances could eventually improve, but in the short term you would be responsible for paying the bank.

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



Q I TRIED to reduce our house insurance because property prices have fallen. However, the insurance company says cover and premiums should actually rise. Can you explain this?

A THE documents you sent me show that your house is insured for the cost of rebuilding it if it should collapse or burn down – and rebuilding costs have risen, even though house prices have not. You can check the cost by entering property details at <http://calculator.bcis.co.uk/>.

Q WE HAVE booked a holiday in Kyrenia in Cyprus, and a friend has now told us that the British health insurance card is not accepted there. Is this true?

A KYRENIA is in northern Cyprus. In the 1970s, Cyprus was invaded by Turkey, which occupied the north and recognises it as a country in its own right. The rest of Europe does not recognise northern Cyprus, which is why your NHS European Health Insurance Card is not valid there. Your friend is quite right – you need a decent travel insurance policy.

Q OUR daughter has been unemployed since she finished university. She does not live with us and is receiving benefits. If we give her a few hundred pounds occasionally to help with bills, will this affect her benefits and could it lead to demands for repayment of student loans?

A STUDENT loan repayments are based on earnings, so giving your daughter a helping hand will have no effect. And her savings would have to be counted in thousands of pounds, not just hundreds, in order to have an impact on her benefits.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Knowing the basics of being a credit to yourself

Keeping an eye on your credit file can help stop problems further down the line, as **ADAM AIKEN** explains...

BEING turned down for credit can come as a complete shock and be very embarrassing.

It can also range from being a bit of a nuisance (if you are rejected for a store card) to being an outright crisis (if you cannot get a mortgage).

So it is worth keeping your credit file in good condition, as well as knowing a few tricks to improve it if necessary.

Luckily the basics are fairly straightforward.

"Lenders worry about how much you have borrowed, what you could borrow on the cards you have but are not using, whether you are on the electoral register, and if you have missed payments in the last six months – all will affect how they view you as a risk," said Steve Rees, managing director of debt consultancy Vincent Bond & Co.

All this information is held on file by the UK's three main credit-reference agencies.

The agencies give lenders a snapshot of your financial situation, and this is normally key as to whether or not you'll be given credit – and on what terms.

Other factors can also come into play. For a start, there is the information on your application form, and you might already have a track record with the lender.

But your credit file is used by a lender to calculate a 'credit score' and, as a rule of thumb, you will be accepted if you meet its target score.

James Jones, head of consumer affairs at Experian, one of the credit-reference agencies, said: "Being refused credit can feel like a smack in the face and, believe me, we've all been there."

"If you have credit refused, the lender should tell you the main reason, although you may need to ask. It should also let you know which credit-reference agencies it consulted."

"Contrary to popular belief, lenders don't tell the agencies what decision they've reached, so this isn't recorded on your credit report."

"But your report will show that you applied for credit."

HOW TO PUT YOUR FILE RIGHT

It costs £2 to be sent a copy of your credit file, and there are three agencies – Equifax, Experian and Callcredit – that can send you this information. If everything is in order, it is likely they will all hold similar details on you.

But if you have been turned down



CREDIT RATING TIPS

■ Make sure you are on the electoral roll as many companies use it for ID verification. It is also important this is the same address you use for credit applications. For example, if you or your children are at university and an application for a credit card is made using the campus address, but the applicant is on the electoral roll back at home, the financial provider is likely to say 'no'.

■ You can be rejected for credit if you are not credit-active enough. This might sound strange, but if you do not have a track record of dealing with credit, providers are less certain how you will manage it in the future. So if you want to build up a good credit score, consider taking out a credit card or a store card – even an uncompetitive one with a high interest rate, if necessary – and using it once or twice a month. Make sure you pay your balance in full each month to avoid any interest charges, and this should see your credit score improve.

■ Avoid carrying high balances on your credit cards. Neil Munroe, external affairs director at credit-reference agency Equifax, reckons that having an outstanding balance of more than 30pc of your credit limit can be viewed by other lenders as excessive debt.

■ Close any accounts you don't use. If you have a store card you haven't used for a couple of years, it will still count as a line of credit if the account remains active. When lenders analyse your situation, they look at how much credit you have available, not just what your balances are.

■ Do not make multiple applications. Every time you apply, a 'footprint' is made on your credit file. If you make several applications in a short space of time, it can look like desperation, and many lenders are wary of lending to desperate people. You risk making the situation worse. Instead, apply for a copy of your credit report and see if there is anything you can do to improve your score.

■ Review your credit report on a regular basis, making sure everything is accurate and up to date.

for credit, it could be because of a problem on your file, so you might want to ask for copies from all three agencies.

If there is anything factually wrong, tell the relevant credit-reference agency. You might need to provide proof, but the agency is obliged to put it right.

If there is an entry that is factually correct, but which you think is unfairly impeding your ability to take

on new credit, you can ask for a 'notice of correction' to be added to your file.

For example, it may be that your file accurately refers to a problem with a joint financial commitment caused by a former partner several years ago.

It is right that this is listed – after all, you were jointly liable – but you have the right to alert potential lenders about the context of the problem.

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Grease & Saturday Night Fever Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast

Self drive, 3 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote MP5-KOS

£99pp

2 November, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed Christmas Party - for over 40s only - at Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village. Enjoy great entertainment including a Grease tribute act & movie screening, festive food, a 99p Bar every night, refurbished chalet accommodation, an indoor pool, Pakefield's peaceful seafront location near Lowestoft and much more.



99p drinks

Over 40s only

£10 deposit

Good value, good service

INCLUDED:

- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night
- Full Entertainment programme featuring Grease tribute act & movie screening
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities

Value for money, good service throughout our stay. Staff all very helpful and friendly
- Mr Scripps of Kent

Very good value
- Mr & Mrs Thurbon of Kent

GN People very friendly and helpful
- Mrs Norman of Sidcup

Friendly atmosphere, good company - no children
- Mr Gardiner of Kent

What Readers said about our Private Party Break at Pontin's Pakefield in March

Bruges & Belgium Christmas Markets River Cruise Party

Escorted Holiday by Rail from London, *Ebbsfleet & Ashford

4 days, all-inclusive

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INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout



All-inclusive

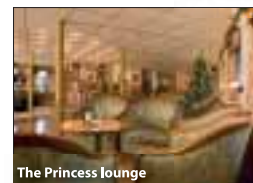
Bruges at Christmas time



ms Princess



cabins



The Princess lounge



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Suffolk Coast Midweek Breaks

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village

Self-Drive - 4 nights, half board

Quote PM-KOS

£89pp

30 April; 7 & 14 May; 11 & 18 June, 2012

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy entertainment every night and

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INCLUDED:

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- 4 dinners & 4 breakfasts
- Entertainment every day



Jeff Hooper's Big Band

Hayling Island Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Mill Rythe Resort
Hayling Island

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

From £159pp

Quote XM11-KOS

23 November, 2012

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Rythe Resort on Hayling Island, near Portsmouth. Enjoy hearty hospitality, great entertainment, including Jeff Hooper's Big Band - the Strictly Come Dancing tour band for the last 2 seasons. To keep the party mood alive there's a 99p Bar every night.

INCLUDED:

- 99p Bar 6pm to 11pm every evening
- Full Entertainment programme featuring Jeff Hooper's Big Band
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available



Warner Norton Grange has a super sea shore location

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Warner Norton Grange Resort

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Quote XN11-KOS

£199pp

30 November, 2012

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If you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you. You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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Will Japanese turn to Dungeness after their nuclear catastrophe?

EXCLUSIVE by Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

EAST Kent MP Damian Collins is calling on the Japanese to invest in a new nuclear power station at Dungeness.

His move comes after a meeting between Prime Minister David Cameron and his Japanese counterpart Yoshihiko Noda that opened the door for the Far Eastern nation to build nuclear plants in the UK in return for help in cleaning up the Fukushima plant damaged in last year's earthquake and tsunami.

Collins, MP for Folkestone and Hythe, has been a long-term campaigner for investment in a third power station on Romney Marsh, with Dungeness A currently decommissioned and Dungeness B scheduled to cease operations in 2018.

But the site could home a new plant as the Government has announced that nuclear energy will form part of Britain's future power-generation strategy.

Collins said: "Investment in Britain's nuclear industry is good news and I hope the Japanese take a look at Dungeness. The more countries looking to invest in the industry, the better.

"The door remains open for development at Dungeness and I hope the Japanese will consider the location."

The power station is a source of local employment but has its opponents, who say it poses environmental dangers in



SEEING THE LIGHT? Dungeness could be considered by the Japanese for a new nuclear plant; Damian Collins, right, hopes so...



an area renowned across the world for its wildlife. Other objections are due to its proximity to Lydd airport.

Mr Cameron recently undertook his first official visit to Japan and while there signed a deal that opened up the UK's nuclear market to "Japanese companies' technical expertise in new plant design and construction".

As part of the agreement, British companies will be asked to help with the clean-up operation at the Fukushima plant damaged in the 2011 tsunami.

Cameron said while on his trip: "British companies have significant expertise in nuclear decommissioning and clean-up, with 19 nuclear sites in the

UK [including Dungeness B] currently being managed through the process."

The agreement stated: "Japanese companies' technical expertise in new plant design and construction, and the UK's decommissioning and waste-management experience and technology make civil nuclear cooperation particularly mutually beneficial."

Charles Hendry, minister of state for energy, said: "I am in no doubt that co-operation with Japan in these areas will bring mutual benefits.

"This agreement will open up opportunities for UK firms to work with Japanese industry and to continue to share the UK's world-class expertise, just as

we did in the aftermath of Fukushima."

There is, however, still strong opposition to development at Dungeness.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party spokesman, pointed to the cost of construction of such a plant, together with the cost of making the landscape free of contamination after decommissioning.

He said: "The site has been identified correctly by the Environment Agency as poor because of its shingle beach, which will become increasingly vulnerable to rising sea levels.

"Also it is most peculiar that a country in the process of phasing out its nuclear plants will be helping another nation to establish new ones."

PROPERTY

Zoopla merger given go-ahead by the OFT

THE planned merger of two of the UK's biggest companies in the online property sector has been cleared by the Office of Fair Trading.

Zoopla, which powers the homes24.co.uk property portal run by media group Archant, publisher of Kent on Sunday, and the Digital Property Group, the business behind Findaproperty.com and Primelocation.com, announced their intention to merge in October.

The deal will create greater competition for Rightmove by bringing together the UK's second, third and fourth largest property websites.

Zoopla was founded in 2008, with homes24.co.uk becoming part of its network in January last year. Digital Property Group is owned by the Daily Mail and General Trust.

Speaking at the time the merger was announced, Martin Cunningham, commercial director of homes24.co.uk, said the consolidation of the UK property portal sector to "a definitive two players" would benefit consumers and agents alike.

The merger is set to take place during the next few weeks.

EXPANSION

Kings Hill media agency makes the news as move creates 30 positions

THREE-and-a-half years after it moved to Kings Hill, media agency The Specialist Works is expanding its base on the park and plans to recruit up to 30 new workers.

The company is one of the UK's largest independent media agencies, with a turnover of more than £45 million and employing more than 60 staff in Kent, London and Manchester.

It was voted one of the Sunday Times's 100 Best Small Companies To Work For in 2012 and rated number 26 in advertising trade magazine Campaign's Top 50 Media Agencies league table.

With expansion plans for its print, digital and creative departments over the next three years, the company

plans to hike staff numbers from 25 to 55, moving into 3,606 sq ft in 30 Tower View from Churchill Square.

"It is a very successful operation thriving in the face of the current economic climate," said operations director Tom Wilson.

"We initially moved part of our business to Kings Hill from London because our key staff were fed up with commuting. We have also found recruiting locally is a very good option and there is less staff turnover than there is in London.

"We are delighted we have been able to find larger premises on site so we can keep our prestigious Kings Hill address – the business moving onwards and upwards."

DISTRIBUTION

Company raises glass to Stateside operation

A FIRM specialising in spirits expects to increase export sales by 30 per cent within the next year after signing a £200,000 deal with a US distributor – just four years after it faced ruin.

Old St Andrews, based in Sevenoaks, designs, bottle and distributes premium alcohol brands, including whisky and gin, which now have such global appeal that the company makes 90 per cent of its sales from overseas orders.

"We've just signed up our latest distributor in New Jersey as a direct result of an UKTI market visit last autumn," said managing director Bob Gorton. "The first annual contract is worth \$300,000 [£200,000], but we expect this figure to double as sales roll out across America."

Yet only four years ago the company was on the brink of bankruptcy before being bought out by Gorton, who was then a business adviser.

He saw potential in the company but decided that the business needed a change of direction to target the high end of the whisky and gin markets.

He said: "We've found having face-to-face meetings abroad virtually guarantees business."

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Taxman faces paying out millions over unfair fines

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

SMALL businesses may be falling victim to unfair fines from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), according to a recent judgement by a tax tribunal.

The findings of the Hok Limited vs HMRC tribunal suggested that HMRC was waiting an unacceptable length of time to inform businesses that they have missed tax-filing deadlines, resulting in business-owners accruing months of late-payment charges before realising they owed any money.

Simon Warne, tax partner at Crowe Clark Whitehill, a national firm offering audit, tax and business-advisory services, with offices in Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone, said: "Depending on the results of an appeal, HMRC may be obliged to make refunds worth millions of pounds to almost 100,000 businesses."

In the case of Hok Limited, the company believed it was not necessary to file the appropriate returns as its only employee had ceased employment partway through the year.

Although it accepts it was wrong in this assumption, it claims the error would have been remedied far sooner if HMRC had notified the company, thereby avoiding any ongoing penalties. The tribunal ruled that HMRC acted neither fairly nor in good conscience and the penalty was set at £100 rather than a minimum of £500.

Warne said: "What appears to be happening is that a company which misses the tax-filing deadline in May will not receive a computer-generated reminder from HMRC until September."

"By this time, businesses are faced with four months' late-payments fees at £100 per month, as well as another £100 charge for late completion of paperwork – meaning there will always be a minimum £500 penalty."

"The tribunal has ruled these fines are disproportionately unfair as a slight error can leave companies with large fines to pay."

"There is a general feeling it is the role of the Government organisations to ensure tax is paid correctly, rather than to catch people out."



CASH NOT IN HAND: If the courts rule that HMRC has been slow to notify companies over wrong tax payments, it could be due to pay out millions to almost 100,000 UK businesses

Farmer ploughs new furrow by using hi-tech methods to help business grow

A FARMER is using the latest iPhone-type hand-held technology to try to get one step ahead of the competition.

Ashford-based Andrew Martin has branched out from his 1,600-acre Broadstream Farm on Romney Marsh into arable-farm contracting.

And to keep track of his expanding crop portfolio, he has turned to the latest in electronic farm-management systems.

"My tractors rarely leave the yard these days without a pre-generated work plan," said Martin, who uses equipment supplied by software specialist Landmark Systems to give him up-to-the-minute information on soil type, rotation patterns and stock control.

"Due to the success of the business we have set up each client as a separate entity and it is great to be able to transfer, record and charge stock effortlessly between different cost centres."

"At the same time we can access important field data from the tractor cab, including plans for spraying, fertilizer-application and muck-spreading."

"Easy access to this type of information is important for any farmer, but because all of the land we farm is in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, compliance with agreed fertilizer patterns is absolutely vital."

Martin has seen his contract-farming acreage double in recent years and he now manages five major clients in addition to his own farm.

He manages a standard arable rotation of wheat, barley, oats, beans, peas and oilseed rape.

Nigel Parsons, managing director of Landmark Systems, said: "Modern farming is all about having accurate, real-time management information that allows you to keep on top of costs and control stock effectively."

"Now, more than ever, farmers offering contracting services like Andrew need immediate, easy access to information such as crop yields and machinery usage."

"Being able to see detailed work plans out in the field is a crucial part of successful farming in the 21st century."

TAKEOVER

Golf centre's new owner is asking for customer 'in-putt'

MYTIME Active has bought Orpington Golf Centre from Crown Golf.

Crown Golf has traded the property since January 2005, following its acquisition of American Golf (AGUK).

The club was founded in the early 1970s and offers 53 holes of golf, a driving range and teaching academy, together with retail and food and beverage facilities.

Stephen Lewis, chief executive of Crown Golf, said: "We are extremely pleased to be passing on this property to a new owner who has great ambition for the site."

"I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank-you to all the Orpington Golf Centre staff for their hard work and diligence during the sale

process and wish them every success under the new ownership."

"I would also like to thank all our customers for their loyalty during our period of ownership and to wish them continued enjoyment of Orpington Golf Centre under the new ownership of Mytime Active."

Mytime Active chief executive Steve Price said: "Orpington will be a great addition to our growing range of golf courses and will complement those we already manage at Farnborough, Bromley, Bexley and Maidstone."

"As a social enterprise we are committed to improving quality and value, and we're looking forward to meeting customers to discuss potential future improvements."

AWARDS

Employees safe knowing that they work for a big company

AXA, the insurer whose UK operations include Tunbridge Wells's largest business, AXA PPP healthcare, has been awarded 19th place in 2012's The Sunday Times 25 Best Big Companies To Work For.

The national awards, based on confidential feedback from employees, praised AXA's 'feel-good factor' – with 77 per cent of employees saying that colleagues "truly care about each other" and 76 per cent agreeing that "people go out of their way to help each other" in the business.

AXA secured special recognition for its focus on employee well-being, with employees able to access a range of health and well-being benefits, including support on healthy living as

well as opportunities to try out a variety of health-enhancing activities such as the Alexander Technique, Zumba classes and 'mindball' challenge – a computer-based programme where participants seek to control a ball game through the power of relaxation.

AXA was also commended for being environmentally friendly – with 72 per cent of employees agreeing that "AXA makes it easy to be green" – and for its charitable and volunteering activities.

Sonia Wolsey Cooper, AXA PPP healthcare's membership and people director, said: "We've a wealth of talented employees who not only care for their colleagues and customers but are also committed to their community and to supporting good causes."

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Training, courses and careers

College plans to build on construction popularity

NORTH West Kent College is offering a construction programme at its newly redeveloped Dartford campus.

Construction, building services and engineering courses are already offered at the college's Gravesend campus, but this new Dartford offering will now enable students from Dartford and the surrounding areas to be in easier commuting distance.

From September, the Dartford campus will offer a multi-skills construction one-year programme, which will include units covering electrical, ceramic tiling, carpentry, brick work and painting and decorating. These courses will provide students with a broad base training across all skill areas, and an opportunity to try them out and perhaps specialise in their second year.

This is an innovative move for the college as traditionally the Dartford campus has previously only offered painting and decorating.

Following the increase in demand and enquiries about construction courses at Dartford, vice principal Penny



Morgan, said: "We are offering this course so students can experience a range of construction industry skills, but do not have to travel to Gravesend for them.

"Students have heard about our good reputation and want to be trained by our highly skilled and knowledgeable staff.

"The courses on offer will also include a link to the award-

winning Sustainable Construction Centre, SusCon, which is part of a joint initiative, based at the Bridge in Dartford."

Level 1 is the entry requirement for the course, but students could successfully complete a vocational course and qualify for entry that way, said Ms Morgan.

In addition to an increased construction programme be-

ing offered at the Dartford campus, the college has recently introduced sports and business and secretarial courses at the newly redeveloped Gravesend campus.

They want to encourage more students from the local community and surrounding areas to study with them on in-

CHIPPING AWAY: North West College is offering construction courses in Dartford



industry linked programmes.

Another new feature is the Level 2 Award in medical terminology to address the needs of the healthcare industry.

And as part of its sports programme offering, the college's Football Academy has secured a partnership deal with Gillingham FC.

Associate director of sport and leisure Chris Lydon, said: "Students will be able to combine their full-time studies with professional football training as part of the partnership, to be delivered both at Dartford and Medway.

"With Gillingham FC currently competing in League Two of the Football League the partnership gives our students the chance to study while training and representing a professional football club."

Emily-Jo scoops apprentice award

EMILY-JO Howarth from Whitstable has been named Southern Water's Apprentice of the Year.

The 23-year-old received her award at Fontwell Park Racecourse, West Sussex.

She was presented with a toolkit, a cheque for £250, and the winner's trophy shield, by Southern Water's chief executive Matthew Wright.

Emily-Jo is in the second year of her electrical apprenticeship and is based at Weatherlees Wastewater Treatment Works near Ramsgate.

Before joining Southern Water, she worked for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, which supports Royal Navy ships around the world, supplying them with fuel, ammunition and supplies.

She said: "I wanted a new challenge and a job

with a bit more stability. I'm really happy I made the move. It was amazing to win Apprentice of the Year and means all the hard work has paid off.

"I'm really excited about the future."

Mr Wright said the apprentices were a "vital part" of the business, adding: "At a time when we are hearing there are fewer opportunities for young people, it is fantastic this scheme is going from strength to strength. I'd also like to thank the mentors who guide people through their apprenticeships."

For more information on Southern Water's apprenticeships programme, visit www.southernwater.co.uk/workingwithus/apprenticeships.

Theatre crew offer technical advice

A MEDWAY theatre's technical crew will take centre stage when they host a summer workshop that will reveal the tricks of their trade.

The workshop will give wannabe techies the chance to discover the skills involved behind the scenes of theatrical productions and gain real experience of live entertainment.

The course is designed for those who want to take part in theatre – from the village or

school hall to amateur or dance company members who book professional theatres and want to arrive with technical knowledge.

The one-week course will include health and safety, tours and show preparation, sound and lighting equipment operation, and stagecraft.

At the end of the week there will be opportunity to do a practical set up and rehearsal before a presentation before friends and family.

There are two one-week courses available, on August 13-17 and August 20-24. Places cost £85. The course is suitable for ages 17 and up.

The workshop will take place at the Central Theatre, Chatham, from 10am-5pm each day, with an 8pm finish on the Friday for the presentation.

For more information and to book a place, call the theatre box office on 01634 338338.

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MEDWAY AND SWALE ARE BEST



FORWARD-THINKING

Making the most of the opportunities available

MEDWAY and Swale are two of the most go-ahead areas in Kent when it comes to forward-thinking business.

New companies have been encouraged into the regenerated areas of the transformed waterfront at Rochester, which has become a highly-desirable residential location.

Improvements in communication have also made the area hugely attractive to investors and those looking for a good quality of life.

The Isle of Sheppey has also benefited from easier access to the mainland and plans are under way to put it firmly on the map when it comes to leisure destinations.

Typical of the confidence shown in the area is the move by paper-making company Smurfit Kappa, which has announced a three-year £98 million investment plan in its Townsend Hook facility in Snodland.

This is just one of the new projects boosting employment prospects across Medway and Swale.

The installation and commissioning of a lightweight recycled-container-board machine is due to be completed and operational by the end of 2014 – securing the supply of paper for all of Smurfit Kappa's packaging operations in the UK and Ireland.

Chris Allen, CEO of Smurfit Kappa Paper UK, said: "The design



of the new machine features state-of-the-art technology that will produce a superior lightweight paper, enhancing our position and confirming us as a leading player in the UK and Ireland.

"Smurfit Kappa's two UK mills will now specialise in producing all the recycled brown corrugated case material for its UK and Irish corrugated business, while maintaining its presence in the market."

The investment continues the 150-year history of paper-making at Townsend Hook.

Another example of the way businesses in the area are forging ahead comes from Peugeot dealership Robins & Day Rochester. The company emerged victorious at Peugeot's international retail excellence awards after employee James O'Neill scooped the award for used car sales manager of the year.

The awards, which were hosted by British TV personality Hugh Dennis and held at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham, were designed to recognise and celebrate the car-manufacturer's top performers and showcase their achievements.

Peugeot dealers were assessed throughout 2011 on criteria relating to their job role and the top three in each category were invited to the special gala dinner, where 25 awards were presented.

Colin Webster, general manager from Robins & Day Rochester, said: "To be named among the top Peugeot dealers in the UK and walk away with this award is an honour and I'd like to congratulate James on his outstanding achievement."

Tim Zimmerman, managing director at Peugeot Motor Company, said: "The retail excellence awards recognise and

pay tribute to the efforts and dedication of all Peugeot's dealers and celebrate the success of individual team-members who have excelled in their role."

More forward-thinking, including ways to promote and encourage tourism on the Isle of Sheppey, was discussed at a breakfast hosted by MP Gordon Henderson.

The breakfast, at the Shurland Hotel in Eastchurch, was attended by 40 representatives of tourism-related businesses, who used the opportunity to discuss how to stop the decline in the number of visitors to the island each year.

The Sheppey Tourism Alliance also used the breakfast to launch its website www.visitsheppey.com, brochure and DVD, which should encourage the organisations to work together and promote what the island has to offer.

Heather Thomas-Pugh, chairman of the Sheppey Tourism Alliance, said: "The high level of interest shown at the breakfast meeting indicated to us at the Sheppey Tourism Alliance that the issue of communication within the island's tourism providers has been sadly lacking in the past.

"We hope to remedy this and develop our Visit Sheppey website and brochure to accommodate this expanding market."

Mr Henderson said: "I think we should be promoting the island as much as possible as it has a fantastic heritage, excellent beaches and a number of beautiful natural attractions of which we should be proud."

FIRE SAFETY

Be prepared against fire risk

AIM Fire Services is looking to help companies minimise the threat posed by fire.

Unfortunately, the fire-related side of training is not a regulated industry and there are companies who provide tickbox training, which in most cases is not suitable or sufficient for the individual or the company.

Due to non-regulation we have come across several companies whose fire warden or fire-awareness training is wholly inadequate for the company's needs.

We at Aim Fire Services pride ourselves on quality training delivery, with practical scenarios specific to business needs such as residential care homes, offices, factories and large commercial organisations. We can tailor any course specific to the company requirements.

Aim Fire Services is backing fire minister Bob Neil's drive to make business in the South East aware of the forthcoming review of fire-prevention legislation and to ensure they are aware what effects the devolvement of power to local authorities and communities will mean to the business community.

Essentially, the legislation affects those people responsible for any premises in England and Wales where people gather. The legislation covers almost every type of building, structure and open space, except for anything on wheels, anything that flies, building sites, offshore installations, private homes and individual flats in a block or house, although communal areas will be affected.

On October 1, 2006, through the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order, the responsibility for fire safety was handed to the responsible person, i.e. managers, employers, self-employed with premises, voluntary organisations, those responsible for buildings with public access and any contractor who has some control over premises.

The responsible people have a duty to ensure the safety of everyone who uses their premises and those in the immediate vicinity who may be at risk if there is a fire. This will involve providing a suitable and sufficient Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) of the site and adequate training for staff.

This is the biggest reform shake-up in fire-service legislation for almost 30 years. Anyone responsible for premises must carry out the FRA, and The Fire and Rescue Service will be the enforcing body and carry out inspections and audits. Failure to comply could lead to enforcement action or even prosecution.

In a company, the responsible person – usually a manager – will have to carry out the FRA of their premises. This can be done by themselves if they are competent to do so, or by using a competent member of staff who has suitable experience and sound knowledge of this area and has had the relevant training, or by employing third-party consultants such as Aim Fire Services. It is unlikely that internal company staff will have the necessary training or experience to qualify, so some companies will need to contact specialists.

Aim Fire Services can carry out your Fire Risk Assessment, provide training for staff so companies can do their own assessment, act as a third-party consultant and organise general training for fire wardens and fire marshals in fire awareness.

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TO ADVERTISE:TELEPHONE: **01303 817040**FAX: **01303 817004**EMAIL: **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk****Purchasing Administrator**

Due to continued expansion a market-leading supplier to the garden centre trade now requires a purchasing administrator to join its team.

Reporting to the commercial manager, the role will involve:

- Raising and administration of purchase orders.
- Regular contact with our foreign suppliers to ensure timely delivery of orders.
- Creating, updating and interpreting buying plans and analysing sales trends.
- Arranging import documentation, coordinating container deliveries and receipt of stock.

This is an excellent opportunity to join an ambitious, innovative and rewarding company at a time of sustained growth. The successful candidate will be expected to show an interest in all aspects of the business, and be flexible enough to assist in other areas, including sales and marketing, as required. Excellent prospects exist for progression within the company.

Clear communication and accurate statistical work are vital and the role therefore demands exemplary literacy and numeracy levels. Experience of Excel, Word and Outlook preferred but not essential. An enquiring mind, a willingness to learn and a spark of creativity will also be advantageous.

Starting salary £20,000 plus bonus, with regular reviews.

Written applications in the first instance, enclosing CV and details of current salary, to:

James Hoad
Apta, Dencora Way, Leacon Road,
Fairwood Business Park
Ashford, Kent TN23 4FH
james.hoad@apta.co.uk



MTS Cleansing Services Ltd

LGV Fitter/Technician Required

MTS Cleansing Services Ltd one of the largest liquid waste management services in the South are currently looking to recruit an LGV Class 1 Fitter/Technician to work full time on its large fleet of DAF, Mercedes-Benz and Foden trucks based at our Head Office in Hoo, Rochester.

Working hours are 2pm - 12pm late shift

Applicants must possess a full LGV Class 1 license and demonstrate previous experience in the maintenance, service and testing of vehicles in preparation for VOSA /MOT test certificates.

Working within a team, the position would suit someone from a mechanical background with a sound knowledge of electrics, and fleet road testing.

The right candidate must be able to demonstrate a flexible attitude to work as they may be required to attend emergency call out situations which could include weekends and nights.

Reporting to the Workshop manager the successful applicant can expect a competitive salary, supplied protective clothing, 20 days holiday, pension and life assurance schemes after a qualifying period.

For further information and an application form please contact the HR department on 01634-257125



Medical Secretary - Flexi Bank (Margate)

Closing date for applications - Friday 27 April 2012

Qualifications

Maths and English (GCSE or Equivalent)

Two years experience working in a medical environment

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:

Paul Parish 01843 234555 x 63316

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards

**East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Wing, QEOM Hospital
Ramsgate Road, Margate
Kent CT9 4BG**

Telephone: 01843 234556

Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer

This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check



To advertise in this section



01303 817056

Teach English at Home

- Could you host & teach one or two students (junior or adult)?
- Must have TEFL or recognized teaching qualification
- High standard of accommodation required
- Teaching materials, full support and training workshop provided

For further information call:

01227 722882



Is this the job for you?

ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our home in

Senior Support Worker Salary from £15,250

For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com.

Alternatively e-mail joan.williams@achuk.com or contact Human Resources 020 8502 8841

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Account Manager Field Based

Archant KOS Media is looking to recruit highly driven, confident, self-motivated team players to work on our portfolio of products which consist of newspapers, magazines and digital platforms. You will need to be able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets. Working with an existing client base where customer service is paramount, you must also be able to search out new business to develop

and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.

You will be building long-lasting relationships with organisations throughout Kent.

Ideally you will be from a sales or marketing background and have the drive, tenacity and determination to succeed. Basic knowledge of computer systems is required. A full driving licence is essential.

Telephone Sales Executive

If you are a highly driven, confident, self-motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, then apply for this job today.

You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to

develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.

We pride ourselves on good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.

Media experience is not essential as full training will be given, however good numeracy, literacy and computer skills are required.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter to:

Dawn Coady, Group Recruitment Manager, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE or email dawn.coady@archant.co.uk



Alzheimer's & Dementia SUPPORT SERVICES

Registered Charity Number 1024385

Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services is a registered charity based in Northfleet, which supports people with dementia and their carers in Dartford, Gravesham & Swanley.

We have been awarded funding for three new projects and we are recruiting for the following posts:

Dementia Café Facilitator - 14 hours per week - £6,930 per annum - Fixed contract to 31/3/2014

There are three dementia cafés presently running monthly in Dartford, Gravesend & Swanley. This post will facilitate these cafés and set up another two cafés in the local area. Dementia Cafés allow open discussion of dementia and its consequences in an informal, social environment in the presence of, and supported by, peers. The person appointed will organise, and facilitate, the cafés which provide a mix of speakers, entertainment and socialising.

Peer Support Facilitator - 18 hours per week - £8,907 per annum - Fixed contract to 31/3/2014

This post will set up two Dementia Peer support groups, one in Dartford & one in Gravesham. The groups will run twice a month in each venue. The aim of the role will be to facilitate structured group sessions to discuss their diagnosis of dementia and its consequences in an informal environment in the presence of, and supported by, their peers. The aim is to learn from each other about key areas of concern, experienced symptoms & coping mechanisms.

Dementia Buddy Service - 26 hours per week - £12,866 per annum - Fixed Contract to 31/3/2013

This post will set up, and run, a new service at Darent Valley Hospital. This successful applicant will recruit, train & support volunteers to assist patients with dementia in the hospital by providing social interaction, cognitive stimulation and encouragement with eating & drinking.

All posts are subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check & references. It is expected that applicants will have significant experience of working with people with dementia in a professional setting, managing projects as well as experience of working with volunteers.

For application forms and further information, please call **01474 533990** or email adminadss@btconnect.com

Closing date for completed applications is 27th April, 2012.

Interviews will take place in the week commencing 7th May 2012.





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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Want to work in a motivated, forward thinking environment?

Thanet Early Years Project is recruiting exceptional staff to join our teams of nursery professionals.

At our Hand in Hand Nursery, Ramsgate:
Senior Practitioner
 37.5 hrs pw all year round

Experienced Level 3 Nursery Practitioner
 26.25 hrs pw term time only

Experienced Lunchtime Assistant
 10 hrs pw term time only (ref HHLA)

At our Growing Together Nursery, Ramsgate:
Experienced Lunchtime Assistant
 12.5 hrs pw term time only (ref GT LA)

For our Crèche team working throughout the Thanet area:
2 x Crèche Supervisors
 16 hrs pw term time only; car owner and driver essential

2 x Crèche Assistants
 (min Level 2) flexible contract; car owner and driver desirable

All applicants must be suitably experienced and hold relevant qualifications, meeting the criteria as set out in the job description and person specification for each role.

Contact Maria on 01843 591200, email her on maria@thanetearlyyears.org or visit our website www.thanetearlyyears.org for an application form and further details of these exciting opportunities.

Thanet Early Years Project is celebrating its 25th years of childcare to the local community, and offers competitive rates of pay, contributory pension scheme, excellent supervision and opportunities for professional development to its staff.

Closing date for receipt of applications: midday 18th May 2012 with interviews planned to take place week commencing 28th May 2012.

All appointments are subject to full enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks.

Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

Key Stage Leader
 commencing Sept 2012 to lead a Key Stage in this progressive school for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties.

MPS/UPS + TLR 2 (£6,196) + 2 SEN Points
 (depending on experience)

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. Applications are invited from experienced special school teachers or those with an interest in developing management skills within a specialist context. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 27th April 2012
Interviews will be held on 16th May 2012

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP (Tel: 01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

WELLNESS COACHES
 REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home. Full training and support available.

01622 671716

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CARE ASSISTANT

REQUIRED TO COVER MATERNITY LEAVE FOR ELDERLY RESIDENTIAL HOME IN FOLKESTONE

MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE IN RESIDENTIAL CARE OF THE ELDERLY AND HAVE A MINIMUM OF NVQ 2 IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

POST IS SUBJECT TO ENHANCED CRB DISCLOSURE, COST TO BE MET BY APPLICANT

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT JULIA ON **01303 254019**

To advertise in this section

01303 817056

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

NOTICE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000
THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS) (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2000
FORWARD PLAN

In accordance with Regulations 13 and 14 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 notice is hereby given of the following arrangements in respect of Ashford Borough Council's Forward Plan for the period June 2012 to August 2013.

- Throughout the period of June 2012 to August 2013 Key Decisions are to be taken on behalf of the Council.
- The Forward Plan containing particulars of the matters on which decisions are to be taken will be prepared on a monthly basis.
- The first Forward Plan will contain details of Key Decisions to be made for the four month period commencing June to September 2012 and will also contain a list of the documents submitted to the decision takers for consideration in relation to the Key Decisions within the Plan. This will also include any other documents.
- The Forward Plan for each four month period will be published and be available for inspection at the address shown below on the dates indicated.

Period of Plan	Date Available for Inspection
June to September 2012	17 May 2012
July to October 2012	15 June 2012
August to November 2012	17 July 2012
September to December 2012	17 August 2012
October 2012 to January 2013	17 September 2012
November 2012 to February 2013	17 October 2012
December 2012 to March 2013	17 November 2012
January to April 2013	17 December 2012
February to May 2013	17 January 2013
March to June 2013	14 February 2013
April to July 2013	17 March 2013
May to August 2013	16 April 2013

Each Plan will be available for inspection, free of charge, at the Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford or at the Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, Tenterden between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm Monday to Friday. Copies of documents listed within the Forward Plan can be obtained as and when they become available by writing to Mr Keith Fearon, Member Services & Scrutiny Manager, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent or by e-mail: keith.fearon@ashford.gov.uk.

May 2012
 T W Mortimer
 Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Subzero (2003) Limited trading as Subzero of Noake's Storage, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 8AY is applying to change an existing licence as follows:

To keep an extra 0 goods vehicles and 3 trailers at the operating centre at Noake's Storage, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 8AY.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at: Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

To advertise in this section

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PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or its setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
5. The application does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 07 MAY 2012

SW/12/0108:

Listed building consent for complete demolition of timber/glass/plastic rear lean to and construction of garden room - Ye Olde Century, Hogbans Hill, SELLING; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/12/0157: Listed building consent for strengthening work to eastern end wall of property and the associated chimney stack - Malt House, Kingsdown Road, LYNSTED; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/12/0306: Variation of condition (3) of planning permission SW/05/0715 to extend occupancy period to 10 months (1st March to 2nd January) - Meadow View Park, The Broadway, MINSTER; REASON 3

SW/12/0312 &

SW/12/0313: Change of use from B1 (a) office to one detached dwelling together with alterations and car parking - 2 Roman Road, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1

SW/12/0321: Change of use from garage/staff accommodation to three bed dwelling - Horsehill Farm, Monkshill Road, HERNHILL; REASON 5

SW/12/0343: Variation of condition (5) of planning permission SW/10/1403 to vary BREEAM rating from "very good" to "good" - Land r/o Bell Centre, Bell Road, SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 3

SW/12/0344 &

SW/12/0345: Erection of balcony to rear; change door to window; and replace existing window with patio doors. (Amendments to SW/09/0283 & SW/09/0284) - 39 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/12/0346: Demolition of existing building and re-development of site to provide for 6 detached chalet bungalows and 8 town houses (total 14 dwellings) with associated amenity space, parking, landscaping and access - The Old Dairy, Halfway Road, Halfway, SHEERNESS; REASON 3

SW/12/0348: New boiler house in grounds of listed dwelling house - Beacon Hill House, Shottenden Road, BADLESMERE; REASON 2

SW/12/0358: Variation of condition (ii) of planning permission SW/80/1400 to allow 10 month occupancy (1st March to 2nd January) - Lazy Days Holiday Park, Bell Farm Lane, MINSTER; REASON 2

SW/12/0359 &

SW/12/0360: Demolition of existing outbuilding and redevelopment of new two storey commercial office building - Land at Toachim Mews, South Road, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003Application for the Grant of a
New Premises Licence

We Maidstone United (Ground) Ltd hereby give notice that I have made an application to the Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ for the grant of a premises license in respect of the following licensable activities:

1. The sale of alcohol by retail
2. The provision of regulated entertainment, and
3. The provision of late night refreshment

In respect of the premises situated at The Gallagher Stadium, James Whatman Way, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LQ and to be known by the sign of Maidstone United Football Club. The application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m - Monday to Friday except public holidays) www.maidstone.gov.uk

Interested parties and responsible authorities may make representation concerning this application in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 10th May 2012.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW solicitors, 8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent, ME19 5QP Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE RESTRICTED BYWAY SR286 IN THE PARISHES OF SEVENOAKS WEALD & SEAL****RESTRICTED BYWAY SR286 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Restricted Byway SR286, between The Coach House, Underriver (NGR TQ 550 524) and the junction with Public Footpath SR287 (NGR TQ 547 516) from the 16th April 2012.

The route will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 16th October 2012.

The route will be closed because works to excavate and build a pipeline are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Nicky Biddall

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR154 IN THE PARISH OF SEAL**PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR154 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath SR154, between the eastern end of Green Lane NGR TQ 559 518 and the junction with Underriver House Road from the 16th April 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 16th October 2012.

The path is to be closed because a depot associated with the pipeline construction is to be located on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Nicky Biddall

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZU1, SITTINGBOURNE****PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZU1, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath ZU1 at Kemsley Drain (NGR TQ 919 654) approximately 250 metres north of new Milton Creek road bridge from the 12th April 2012.

The route will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that the work should be completed in 3 months.

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



The route is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via a track and a temporary bridge and will be marked for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MR392, MT15, MT17A, MT16, AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAYS, MT49 AND MT50 IN THE PARISH OF SHIPBOURNE****PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MR392, MT15, MT17A, MT16 AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAYS MT49 AND MT50 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpaths MR392 at NGR TQ 578 517, MT15 at NGR TQ 583 512, MT17A at NGR TQ 583 512, MT16 at NGR TQ 588 511, and Public Bridleways MT49 at NGR TQ 583 509 and MT50 at NGR TQ 589 509 from 16th April 2012

The Routes will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The Routes will be closed because works are planned on them and there is a likelihood of danger to users. Alternative routes will be signed for the duration of the works.

For detailed enquiries please contact:
Michele Snodding

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR548 IN THE PARISH OF EAST PECKHAM**PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR548 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath MR548 from Branbridges Road to NGR TQ674 485 from the 10th April 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users

There is an alternative route along the site boundary and this will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact:
Michele Snodding

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 22 April 2012

PLANNING

Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

- CA/11/02026/LB:** Milestone Cottage, Canterbury Road, Bramling, Ickham, CT3 1NB Insertion of window on gable end.
Applicant: Mr Stephen Wright **Reason:** Work to a listed building.
- CA/12/00135/ADV:** 21-24 St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BT Illuminated fascia signage and projecting sign, applied lettering to wall and vinyls applied internally to windows. **Applicant:** Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/12/00172/FUL:** 96 Western Avenue, Herne Bay, CT6 8UF First-floor rear extension to dwelling. **Applicant:** Dr Wilson **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/12/00214/ADV:** Highland Court Farm, Patricbourne, Bridge, CT4 5HW Installation of two non-illuminated free-standing post mounted signs and one non-illuminated wall-mounted fascia sign. **Applicant:** The Co-operative Farms **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/12/00265/FUL:** Orchard House, Maypole Road, Hoath, CT3 4LN Erection of wall with gate to side of dwelling; alteration of field access from Maypole Road, associated formation of driveway and erection of wall and gates. **Applicant:** Mr and Mrs Hawken **Reason:** Setting of listed building in conservation area.
- CA/12/00266/LB:** Orchard House, Maypole Road, Hoath, CT3 4LN Erection of wall with gate to side of dwelling; alteration of field access from Maypole Road, associated formation of driveway and erection of wall and gates. **Applicant:** Mr and Mrs Hawken **Reason:** Work to a listed building.
- CA/12/00298/FUL:** 72 Whitstable Road, Canterbury, CT2 8EB Replacement upvc windows to front elevation. **Applicant:** Mr Towman **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/12/00314/ADV:** Age Concern, Castle Row, Canterbury, CT1 2QY Two non-illuminated wall-mounted signs. **Applicant:** Age UK Canterbury **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/12/00325/FUL:** 121 Whitstable Road, Canterbury, CT2 8EF Creation of new vehicle access to Whitstable Road to serve nos 119A and 119B with associated alterations to access parking and turning arrangement; erection of front boundary wall and relocation of entrance gates. **Applicant:** Mr E Pellumville **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/12/00392/FUL:** Morville, Grove Road, Wickhambreaux, CT3 1SJ Erection of single-storey extension and garage to side elevation of dwelling. **Applicant:** Mr and Mrs Barnes **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/12/00408/VAR:** Cornerstone, Maypole Lane, Hoath, CT3 4LP Variation of condition 10 of planning permission CA/11/1945/FUL relating to the code for sustainable construction. **Applicant:** Mr P Tatham **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/12/00439/ADV:** 14 Daniels Court, Whitstable, CT5 1ET Replacement front door. **Applicant:** Mr G Bush **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/12/00467/ADV:** 5-7 Whitefriars Street, Canterbury, CT1 2TA Installation of 1 no internally illuminated hanging box sign. **Applicant:** H & M **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/12/00493/FUL:** Greenways, Beech Hill, Bridge, CT4 5AU Demolition of existing garage and erection of a two-storey side extension to dwelling. (Revised scheme). **Applicant:** Mr A Creighton **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/12/00504/FUL:** 62 Chestfield Road, Chestfield, CT5 3JH Erection of a detached two-storey dwelling. **Applicant:** Mr S Howard **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/12/00536/LB:** The Penny Theatre, 30-31 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BL Externally illuminated sign, replacement hanging sign and new lantern above entrance door. **Applicant:** Stonegate Pub Company **Reason:** Work to a listed building.
- CA/12/00538/LB:** 42 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2RY Replacement of 1 no fascia sign to front elevation. **Applicant:** Tui UK Retail Ltd **Reason:** Work to a listed building.
- CA/12/00541/LB:** 24 The Close, Union Road, Bridge, CT4 5NJ Internal alterations. **Applicant:** Mr A Gladin **Reason:** Work to a listed building.
- CA/12/00543/ADV:** 42 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2RY Replacement of 1 no fascia sign and 1 no wooden projecting sign to front elevation. **Applicant:** Tui UK Retail Ltd **Reason:** Conservation area.
- CA/12/00607/FUL:** 34 Hillside Paddocks, Blean Hill, Blean CT2 9EF Retention of touring caravan. **Applicant:** Mrs C Mitchell **Reason:** Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 14 May**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 20 April 2012

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/12/0450/N - POSTE COTTAGE, 27, EYHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TR - Replacement of front ground floor casement windows with like for like timber casement windows. **Reason:** 1, 2

MA/12/0451/N - POSTE COTTAGE, 27, EYHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TR - Application for listed building consent to replace front ground floor casement windows with like for like timber casement windows. **Reason:** 3

MA/12/0526/N - VALLEY PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL, HUNTSMAN LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5DT - Construction of new sports hall with changing rooms. **Reason:** 6

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.



Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **6th May 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 22nd April 2012

Canterbury City Council

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Canterbury City Council will be held at The Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury at 7pm on Thursday 26 April 2012.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW



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PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
PLANNING PERMISSIONNOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN
AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT
MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

**KCC/AS/0116/2012 - Proposed development
at Wye Wastewater Treatment Works, Bridge Street,
Wye, Kent, TN25 5DU.**

Southern Water Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for upgrade of wastewater treatment works with new Humus Tanks and MCC Kiosk.

You may view this application via a computer link at the following locations: (a) Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford; and (b) Tenderden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenderden.

Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 22 April 2012

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THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0200/SH - Hook House Church Lane Brenzett Romney Marsh Kent - Erection of a stable block, (development affecting a public footpath).

Y12/0236/SH# - Stockbridge House Ashford Road Stockbridge Snave Ashford - Listed building consent for the partial demolition and rebuild to include new foundations.

Y12/0274/SH - Land Rear 18 - 20 Radnor Park Avenue Folkestone Kent - Outline application for the erection of 13 dwellings, inclusive of access and layout with associated parking and the construction of a separate car park for Folkestone Sports Centre.

Y12/0352/SH - Ropewalk House High Street Elham Canterbury Kent - Felling of a Holly tree and crown reduction and crown thin of an Apple tree, both situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0328/SH+ - The New House The Street Postling Hythe Kent - Crown reduction of a Willow tree and a Sycamore tree, both situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0354/SH+ - Heppinge Rectory Lane Saltwood Hythe Kent - Felling of a Conifer tree situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0351/SH - Wellington House New Road Elham Canterbury Kent - 3m partial crown lift and reduction of four limbs of a Beech tree, subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 1 of 1955.

Y12/0273/SH - The Grand The Leas Folkestone Kent CT20 2LR - Listed Building Consent for the installation of fire alarm system and emergency lighting to outer foyer entrance off Metropole Road East.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning

Shepway District Council

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND
CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

- The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
- The application is for a Major Development.
- This application would affect trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING
APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 07 MAY 2012

SW/12/0081:
Construction of 4 x 4 bedroom detached dwellings and associated vehicle parking, plus the realignment of Rook Lane - Land at Rook Lane, BOBBING; REASON 7

SW/12/0320:
Relocation of access - Copton Thatch, 15/16 Ashford Road, SHELDWICH; REASON 3

SW/12/0346:
Demolition of existing bungalow and re-development of site to provide for 6, no detached chalet bungalows and 8 no. town houses (total 14 dwellings) with associated amenity space, parking, landscaping and access - The Old Dairy, Halfway Road, Halfway, SHEERNESS; REASONS 2 & 3

SW/12/0418:
Change of use of land for the mixed use of agriculture and keeping of horses with the provision of three new stables, tack rooms, haystore, and sand school - Land at Breach Lane, UPCHURCH; REASON 3

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Development Services

HIGHWAYS

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Station Road (Blowers Hill) from the Railway Bridge to Junction of Cow Lane.

The Order will become effective on 6th May 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence

on 10th May 2012 and will last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Cow Lane, Cowden Pound Road, Hartfield Road, Station Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate railway bridge examination works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

DOWNS ROAD PASSAGE, FOLKESTONE
(RESTRICTIONS ON PEDESTRIANS AND
CYCLISTS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Downs Road Passage, Folkestone, on or after 23 April 2012 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The closure is for its entire length, from between house numbers 153 and 153A Downs Road to the junction with Park Farm Road.

The alternative route is via the walkway between house numbers 83 and 85 Downs Road, Moat Farm Road, Downside and Park Farm Road.

Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(BOTTOM POND ROAD WORMSHILL)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Bottom Pond Road Wormshill between Pond Farm and Norwood Farm on or after 24th April 2012 when required for a period of up to 2 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Bottom Pond Road, Frinsted Lane/The Street, Glossy Hill Road, Bottom Pond Road and vice versa

Bt apologise for any inconvenience caused by essential cabling works to restore customer service. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Mandy Richardson on 03700500792

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(MILL STREET, EAST MALLING)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY
ORDER 2012THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mill Street outside of 157 on or after Tuesday 8th May 2012 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via New Road, Chapman Way, Winterfield Lane, Clare Lane.

Crown Utilities Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install mains and services at the development. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Michaela Radford on 0800 027 5052.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 22 April 2012

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways
and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/00997/FUL Beacon Hill Farm Rolvenden Road, Benenden
- Installation of an 11 kW GAIA wind turbine mounted on a free standing 18m steel mast on a 5m2 concrete base (MAST)

12/00960/HOUSE 1 The White House High Street, Brencley
- Single-storey extension with catlside roof and two conservation rooflights and internal alterations to provide kitchen diner and bedroom 3, and brick/stone boundary wall to replace fence (LB)

12/00961/LBC 1 The White House High Street, Brencley
- Listed Building Consent: Single-storey extension with catlside roof and two conservation rooflights and internal alterations to provide kitchen diner and bedroom 3, and brick/stone boundary wall to replace fence (LB)

12/00043/FUL 36 Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater
- Change of use for storage area to a one-bed studio flat (CA)

12/00990/LBC Colts Hill Farmhouse Colts Hill, Capel
- Listed Building Consent: Realignment of existing drive, new access gates and timber fencing (LB)

12/00965/HOUSE 20B Molyneux Park Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Two storey side extension, provision of two parking spaces (CA)

12/00980/FUL Neville House 77 Mount Ephraim, Culverden
- Two 3 storey semi-detached townhouses and parking (CA) (LB)

12/00842/HOUSE Rockdene Rocks Hill, Frittenden
- Retrospective - Open bay garage building and shed (PROW)

12/00992/HOUSE Smugley Barn Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst
- Replacement timber windows on all elevations (LB)

12/00866/FUL Manor Farm Maidstone Road, Horsmonden
- Livestock building, office and store (PROW)

12/00954/HOUSE 8 The Slade Lamberhurst, Lamberhurst
- Two storey side extension, internal alterations and detached wooden garage (CA)

12/00995/HOUSE Mile Oak Oast Mascalles Court Lane, Paddock Wood
- New two bay garage and store room (LB)

12/00956/HOUSE 7 Clifton Place Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Loft conversion to include new slate clad dormer to rear elevation and removal of existing chimney to rear (CA)

12/00982/HOUSE 37 Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Demolition of single storey rear extension, shed and greenhouse. Single storey rear extension and three bay garage (CA)

12/00984/CAC 37 Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of single storey rear extension, shed and greenhouse (CA)

12/00953/HOUSE 2 Henwoods Crescent Pembury, Pembury
- Single storey extension and minor internal alterations (LB)

12/00904/HOUSE Three Chimneys House Biddenden, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish
- Replacement of lead roof with lead substitute (Retrospective) (LB)

12/00905/LBC Three Chimneys House Biddenden, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement of lead roof with lead substitute (work already carried out) (LB)

12/00972/FUL Kent Community Housing Trust Hartley House, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish
- Extension of car parking area (LB)

12/00986/FUL Kent Community Housing Trust Hartley House, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish
- Extension to Hardy and Camden Wings (LB)

12/00827/LBC 14 Church Road Southborough, Southborough Town Council
- Listed Building Consent - Removal in part of existing brick built single storey extension and construct a single storey brick rear extension (LB)

12/00900/HOUSE Holden House Holden Road, Southborough Town Council
- Cottage in side garden ancillary to the main house for staff accommodation (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting A Conservation Area (LB) Affecting A Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 21 April 2012



HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

BRIDGE STREET, WYE (SUSPENSION OF ONE-WAY) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during the renovation of the Southern Water Treatment Works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order amending the One-way Traffic Order in respect of Bridge Street, Wye.

This takes effect on or after 7 May 2012 for up to 20 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The effect of this is to suspend the One-way Order to allow construction traffic to travel in the reverse direction, when the specific traffic control and signage is in place.

This applies to the section of Bridge Street between Churchfield Way and the approach to the treatment works, and only applies to construction traffic involved in the renovation works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

WOOLAGE GREEN ROAD, WOOLAGE GREEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to lay a new electricity cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Woolage Green Road, Woolage Green, on or after 28 April 2012 for up to 2 days.

If it is not possible to complete these works within this period, it may also be necessary to close the road on the weekend of 5 and 6 May 2012.

The road will be closed between properties Walnut Tree Cottage and Sunningdale.

There will be no through access through the village.

The alternative route is via Wick Lane, Firs Road and Woolage Green Road.

HIGHWAYS -Borough of Dartford

PRIORY ROAD SOUTH, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Priory Road South, Dartford between Westgate Road and Victoria Road.

The Order will become effective on 23rd April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 week from the hours of 08:00hrs - 17:00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Victoria Road, Hythe Street, Westgate Road, Highfield Road North, West Hill, Priory Hill and Priory Place

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Carriageway micro surfacing works.

HIGHWAYS -District of Dover

CHERRY LANE, MONGEHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cherry Lane, Mongeham, on or after 23 April 2012 for up to 3 days, between 7.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Pixwell Lane and Mongeham Road.

The alternative route is via Mongeham Road and Northbourne Road.

DUKE STREET, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Duke Street, Deal, on or after 8 May 2012 for up to 3 days.

The road will be closed between the junctions with West Street and High Street.

The alternative route is via West Street, Stanhope Road and High Street.

NAPCHESTER ROAD, WHITFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow of safe access for phone cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Napchester Road, Whitfield, on or after 24 April 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 41.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with The Drove and Church Whitfield Road.

The alternative route is via The Drove, Sandwich Road and Church Whitfield Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 12) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order prohibits waiting at any time at the following locations:-

Capel Street, On the east side of the road, from a point Capel-le-Ferne 3m South west of the boundary of numbers 92 and 94, Capel Street, in a southerly direction for a distance of 26m

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by this Order and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Kent, CT16 3PJ during normal opening hours.

The Order will be made on 26 April 2012 and will come into operation on 30 April 2012.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make an application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

LOWER HIGHAM ROAD/CHALK ROAD, CHALK (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council had made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Lower Higham Road/Chalk Road, Chalk from A226 Rochester Road (Lion Roundabout).

The Order will become effective on 26th April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 days between the hours of 09:30 - 15:30. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be: For vehicles approaching Chalk Road - A226 Rochester Road. For vehicles to access Lower Higham Road - A226 Rochester Road, A226 Gravesend Road, Villa Road, School Lane, Chalk Road and Lower Road

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CHURCH STREET, LOOSE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Church Street, outside Church House Loose on or after Tuesday 8th May 2012 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via High Banks and Old Loose Hill.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to lay duct in the carriageway. Should you require any further information contact is Clinton Simmonds on 07810 504808.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HEADCORN ROAD, GRAFTY GREEN, MAIDSTONE) (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2012 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 1984

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 82, 83, 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after

consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, intends to make the following Order:-

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce an extension to the 30 mph Speed Limit on the following length of road:

Headcorn Road, From the existing 30 mph speed limit on the northern side of Grafty Green for a distance of approximately 1100 metres in a northerly direction.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ,

between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Maidstone Borough Council Offices, The Gateway, King Street, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to support or object to the new proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 21st May 2012.

(VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE) (NO RIGHT AND LEFT HAND TURNS) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2011 (PROHIBITION OF ENTRY) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2011 (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2011 (PROHIBITION OF LOADING) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2011 (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2011 (STREET PARKING PLACES) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2011 (HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE) (ONE WAY) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2011

(VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE) (PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

(PROVISION OF TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES) THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 AS AMENDED BY THE TRANSPORT ACT 1981 AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, has made experimental Orders the effect of which have temporarily suspended various restrictions in Bank Street, High Street, King Street, Mill Street and Pudding Lane, Maidstone for a period of up to 18 months and replaced them with experimental waiting, loading and access restrictions. This work is connected with environmental highway improvements in the High Street which has been the subject of earlier consultations.

The purpose of carrying out consultation on experimental restrictions is to enable the proposals to be flexible so that all of the needs of the community are met. In the event that the Council considers the experiment has been successful during a period of operation not exceeding 18 months from commencement, and that it should be made permanent, a further Notice will be published.

As a part of this process, representations can be made by individuals and organisations affected by the proposals either in support or to highlight concerns, during the period of operation of the experimental Orders. This will be a minimum of six months and could be up to a maximum of eighteen months from Friday 27th April 2012.

The proposals for the Maidstone High Street Public Realm Project aim to improve how the High Street looks, feels and works. The completed scheme will see less road space given over to vehicles and a new public space created in front of the Town Hall.

The wider pavements and new raised crossing points as detailed in Schedule 1, will make the street more people-friendly, whilst maintaining access for buses, taxis, loading vehicles and blue badge holders. High quality surfaces will be laid across the pavements, crossings and newly created space, which will attract shoppers and tourists, and encourage them to relax and spend time there.

Entry for all motorised vehicles into the area will be via Pudding Lane, whilst access will be maintained into the High Street and King Street for buses, taxis and cycles only and into Mill Street from its junction with Palace Avenue for buses only. Exit from the area is permitted via any of the routes.

Restrictions to be suspended are as follows:

Bank Street: Prohibition of Driving, Prohibition of Waiting.

High Street: Prohibition of Driving in Bus Lanes, No entry Except for Buses (Lower Section - Southbound & Northern Section - Both Directions), Prohibition of Loading, Designated Disabled Person's Vehicles Parking Places, Designated Taxi Parking Places, Designated Goods Vehicle Parking Places, Prohibition of Waiting.

King Street (Part): Prohibition of Driving, Prohibition of Loading, Prohibition of Waiting.

Mill Street (Part): Prohibition of Loading, Designated Parking Places at Pay and Display Machines, Designated Disabled Person's Vehicles Parking Places, Designated Motor Cycle Parking Places, Designated Coach Parking Places, Designated Goods Vehicle Parking Places, Prohibition of Waiting.

Pudding Lane (Part): Prohibition of Driving, Prohibition of Waiting.

As part of the proposals the existing Pelican Crossing currently located on King Street, Maidstone 20 metres east of its junction with the High Street will be removed. This will allow for the relocation of an existing taxi rank which is currently located on the south side of the High Street 30 metres west of its junction with the Gabriel's Hill.

The signalised junction located at the southern end of the High Street at its junction with Mill Street will be removed prior to the installation of a new pedestrian crossing at a point level with the south side of the junction of Mill Street with Bank Street.

Exemptions are provided in the Orders to enable a vehicle to wait with Police permission, for enabling work to be carried out in or adjacent to the roads affected by the proposals, for use by the emergency services and by any local authority or water authority and for access to off street facilities, car parking areas and vehicular accesses.

Copies of the Experimental Orders which shall come into operation on Friday 27th April 2012 for an experimental period of not more than 18 months, an explanatory statement and plan showing the extent of the proposals can be inspected during normal working hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone Kent, ME14 1XQ and at Maidstone Borough Council Offices, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6HQ.

Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd has been commissioned to work in partnership with The Kent County Council to collate views on the proposed measures during the experimental period. As previously stated, organisations or individuals affected by the proposals have a statutory right to make representations either in support or to raise concerns about the experimental orders during the first six months of its operation.

All representations regarding the proposals should be made during the period of the experimental order in writing to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB or by email to diane.bourne@jacobs.com, quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B1742500".

Schedule 1 of 2

Flat Top Raised Table

(Raised flat top table 30mm in height and 6 metres long, including approach ramps over the full width of the carriageway)

1. High Street, Maidstone
 - (a) 14 metres south west of its junction with Pudding Lane
 - (b) 43 metres south west of its junction with Week Street
 - (c) At its junction with Week Street
 - (d) 5 metres west of its junction with Wyke Manor Road

Schedule 2 of 2

Flat Top Raised Table

(Raised flat top table 30mm in height and 23 metres long, including approach ramps over the full width of the carriageway)

1. High Street, Maidstone
 - (a) At its junction with Week Street

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

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Submariners past and present out of the deep for a very special date

SEE PAGE 37



AN INN JOKE

Al Murray's pub landlord comes to the seaside

SEE PAGE 38

Kent Weekend

The astonishing home of one of England's most revered architects

SEE PAGE 50

Pugin's place



PLUS: The replica Bronze Age boat finally making it out to the sea - **the interview p35** Fall in love with Volkswagen's latest bug - **driving p41**



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THE INTERVIEW

Richard Darrah

Voyage back to the Bronze Age

A HALF-SIZED replica of Dover's Bronze Age boat takes to the water next month in a bid to help modern mariners get a better idea of the challenges that faced their ancient forebears.

The vessel is under construction in the grounds of the town's museum, where the original artefact is housed in a protective case.

The boat is believed to be some 3,600 years old and was discovered 20 years ago.

Since then, the vessel, which would have been used to trade between Kent and the Continent, has been a prized exhibit in the museum. However, this is the first time that an effort has been made to test out, as far as possible, how it would handle in the water.

A date of Saturday, May 5, has been set for the "shakedown cruise" off the Kent coast, but that is still to be confirmed.

Craftsman Trevor Marsden is working on the

A model of a 3,600-year-old boat unearthed in Dover is being taken out on a 'shakedown cruise' next month. **Nick Ames** learns more.

project. "We've all got our fingers crossed we can make that," he said. "I'm hoping to be part of the crew when we start the sea trials – it should be a very interesting experience."

Backing for the reconstruction has come from the Two Seas fund, which is supported by both Kent County Council and the European Union, along with the charitable fund established by former-Saga-owner-turned-millionaire-philanthropist Roger de Haan.

Richard Darrah, pictured, is the man tasked with getting the replica boat afloat.

He said: "We have re-created it to half-scale, so it is around 30 feet long. The only things – along with the crew – that are full-sized will be the paddles, as trying to propel the craft with half-sized ones would be impossible.

"The original craft would have had a crew of around 20, maybe 16, rowers and a couple of people constantly bailing out water – we will have eight on board. It would have been used to trade items between communities, and the crew would also have the task of protecting their valuable goods.

"In good weather, a direct Dover to France crossing with favourable tides would have taken around four hours. But if tides were not advantageous, the crew would have found themselves taking 12 hours to cross.

"Longer voyages would see the boat hugging the coast and the crew beaching it at night, when provisions would be gathered."

As with the original vessel, timbers on the replica have been fitted together to form a hull and keel, with yew-stitching holding them firm. The ancient method of waterproofing with moss and beeswax has also been followed.

September 1990 was when the historic boat first saw the light of day after the Bronze Age, which lasted between about 5000BC and 2000BC.

It was uncovered as work was being carried out on a Dover subway that was constantly being flooded. A sump was dug out to drain off the water and it revealed a Medieval town wall,



part of a Roman quayside and then the boat as archaeologists alerted to the first find delved further back through the ages.

The remains had been sealed in silt, preventing the spread of bacteria that would have caused the wooden hull to decay.

Trade routes in the Bronze Age can be traced by artefacts from different cultures being uncovered away from their places of origin.

It is likely that the Dover to France route was one of the most popular, by virtue of its short distance, despite the often dangerous tides.

Others would have seen goods from the Mediterranean, southern France and Spain coming to Britain via Brittany and ending up in Hampshire, Devon and Dorset, while both Dover and Thanet would have been the destination for items originating in Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany.

These would have been transported down European rivers to northern France and then across the Channel.

A shipwreck uncovered by divers in 1974 at Langdon Bay, close to Dover, gives a good idea of the goods that would have been carried.

Items brought to the surface dated from the

later part of the Bronze Age and were of design and workmanship associated with tribes living in ancient France.

A boat of the period could have taken about three tonnes in cargo, which could have included stone for building, livestock, clothing, jewellery, pots and pans, cups and weapons such as swords, daggers, spears and axes.

Darrah said: "The same sort of communities would have existed on both sides of the Channel by the coast and evidence suggests they were richer than those further inland.

"We cannot say for certain, but it is possible that, as well as the crew, the boat may have carried a priest-like figure on board. It would have been believed he could help to ensure the success of the voyage.

"Trade would most likely have been run as a tribal monopoly, with the skills in making and crewing the vessel being passed on through the generations."

Along with the original boat, Dover Museum contains artefacts from the period and replicas of the era's tools as well as a small life-sized re-creation of a hut, with human figures and livestock.



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FOOD & DRINK

A taste of spring: Six of the Best



Oriental Buffet Tonbridge

Why here...

The Oriental Buffet has been under new management since January and offers the chance to feast on all of your favourite cuisines. "Quality without compromise" is the key here.

On the menu...

With more than 50 items from which to choose and five styles of cuisine, there really is something for everyone. No more arguing about whether to go for an Indian or Chinese, a Thai or Nepalese!

How to book...

96 High Street, Tonbridge, TN9 1AP
phone: 01732 361666.
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The season to skip forth and savour

WITH spring now upon us, there is no place like the Garden of England when it comes to taking a ride out and having a fine meal.

With the evenings getting lighter by the day and the promise of an English summer just around the corner, now is the ideal time of year to sample the range of food and drink on offer in the county's pubs and restaurants.

Kent got its moniker from the huge variety of produce that farmers, fishermen and brewers have been able to bring to the market and then to the table.

Dover sole, Romney Marsh lamb and Kentish strawberries are just three of the world-class products that come straight from the county.

Then there are the top-class

vegetables that spring from the fertile soils of our farms.

And when washed down with some of the local award-winning wines, beers and ciders, the whole experience is a treat that will linger long in the memory.

The beautiful countryside of the county produces a wonderful backdrop to the whole dining experience.

Kent eateries pride themselves on sourcing as much produce as possible from local establishments – and with such a wide and excellent range available that is surely the wisest course to take.

Away from the countryside, historic towns also boast top-class cafés, restaurants and pubs serving high-quality dishes prepared by talented chefs and served by keen and knowledgeable staff.

So with spring here, it's over to you to get out and enjoy!



The Barge Maidstone

Why here...

The Barge Restaurant offers imaginative and expertly-cooked modern European food in an elegant but relaxed environment permanently moored on the River Medway. Ingredients are sourced locally.

On the menu...

A range of regularly-changing menus and a carefully-selected wine list, offering wines from Europe and the New World. Enjoy three courses from the à la carte for £19.50.

How to book...

Phone free 0808 1661024 or book at www.the-barge.co.uk. River Medway, rear of Archbishop's Palace ME15 6YE



London Beach Tenterden

Why here...

The London Beach offers one of the best à la carte menus in the county. The dishes change on a regular basis to coincide with the seasons, and wherever possible the team incorporates Kent produce.

The sophisticated restaurant has a relaxed ambience with beautiful panoramic views across the Weald of Kent. It is an ideal venue for family gatherings large or small.

On the menu...

Start your meal with smoked-mackerel-and-caper pâté with pickled cucumber, horseradish cream and granary toast followed by paupiettes of plaice, prawn mousse, shellfish sauce and Duchess potato. Top off your meal with pear-and-almond tart, crème Anglaise and honey ice-cream.

How to book...

London Beach Country Hotel, Ashford Road, Tenterden TN30 6HX
phone: 01580 766279; email: enquiries@londonbeach.com

The Acorn Inn Birchington

Why here...

The Acorn Inn is a friendly, family-run pub in the heart of the seaside village of Birchington-on-Sea. Hosts Peter and Cath offer you a warm welcome to a pub that has existed since 1748.

On the menu...

There is a good selection, from fish to meat, on the à la carte menu, where prices range from £4.95 to £18.95. Every Thursday is steak night. Sunday roasts are available from midday-4.30pm.

How to book...

The Acorn Inn, 6 Park Lane, Birchington CT7 0AW
phone: 01843 841196



The Red Lion Hernhill

Why here...

Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, The Red Lion has a warm, cosy atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food. You can choose a drink from a varied selection of wines, beers and real ales. There are few better places to enjoy springtime in Kent than The Red Lion. The wonderful Forest of Blean is close, while the surrounding open countryside is glorious.

On the menu...

The à la carte menu has a wide selection for all tastes, with many meals costing less than £10. Meats available include pork, lamb and beef. Food is served daily Monday to Saturday from midday to 2.30pm and from 6pm-9pm; on Sundays it is served from midday to 8pm. The bar is open in normal pub hours.

How to book...

The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR
phone: 01227 751207
web: www.theredlion.org



Waggon at Hale Chatham

Why here...

A well-run family pub with good food, drinks and a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. All ages are welcome; in fact in the garden there is a mini family farm with chickens, rabbits and a miniature pig.

On the menu...

The home-cooked food menu covers all tastes, with simple light bites to the ever-popular traditional Sunday roast, the Thai fishcakes or the Waggon burger... handmade with Angus Scotch beef.

How to book...

179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP
phone: 01634 400800
web: www.waggonathale.co.uk

FOOD & DRINK **Flavours of Kent**

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

This is one waggon that I'll be happy to jump on again

GLOSSIPPING over a drink with a long-lost friend meant it was easily half an hour before we looked at the menu on Saturday night, but our waitress at the Waggon at Hale's restaurant was perfectly happy to let us get on with things... even if that meant that by the time we were finally ready to order, the larger table next to us had also made their choices.

Such bad timing on our part had little effect on the wait for our food, though, with my trio of prawns (£5.95) and my guest's breaded Camembert (£5.25) arriving in perfect time.

My guest selected easily the best of the starters, three perfectly-sized rounds of melting Camembert, with cranberry compote and mixed salad leaves that were polished off in seconds and finally managed to end our chatter.

The prawns were equally as delicious, coming with a sweet chilli dipping sauce and salad – the menu told me I was getting tempura, filo and Japanese prawns. All three were delicious, but my one complaint of the night was that there was little to indicate which prawns were which.

Moving on to our mains, the 8oz rump steak with Jack Daniels glaze (£12.95) was cooked just to my guest's taste. Served up with chips and salad, this was a good-sized meal, with the

RESTAURANT REVIEW



tangy glaze an unusual but welcome twist.

My home-made fisherman's pie with seasonal veg (£9.75) was equally tasty. Smothered in a beautiful potato mash, the chunks of cod, salmon, smoked haddock and prawns infused with cheese, chilli and lemon were heaven, and as I found myself nearing my limits of fullness I was forced to leave some of the potato in favour of the succulent fish pieces.

Throughout the meal our waitress had been perfectly attentive, checking we were happy and chatting with us when we asked questions. Before we had even looked at the menu she had told us of the specials and apologised because

the fillet of cod was off the menu that evening but that there was cod on the bar menu, from which we were welcome to order.

This great service, coupled with a modern but relaxed environment, meant we had no qualms about loitering over our drinks before tackling the dessert menu.

The New York cheesecake (£4.25) and chocolate-fudge cake (£4.50) were as delicious as you'd expect, only I'd been so greedy I was again forced to leave some of mine. Instead we relaxed over a couple of coffees as the waitress had assured us there was no hurry to leave.

Three courses of delicious food and a few drinks from the bar gave a total bill of £62.65.

Delicious food, a great environment and excellent service mean I'll definitely be returning to the Waggon, maybe to one of its many special events. A day visit will also be on the cards to meet the small menagerie in the beer garden, including a micro-pig called Crackling.

A year after its transformation, the Waggon at Hale has become a must-visit destination.

Erica Jones

■ Waggon at Hale, 179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP. Telephone: 01634 400800; web: www.waggonathale.co.uk

Old British tearoom is a return to tradition

A NEW tearoom with a traditional theme has been opened at one of Kent's leading tourist attractions.

The Salutation Tea Room has been unveiled at The Secret Gardens of Sandwich to be ready for the summer season.

Situated in the Old Gatehouse, it features many of the characteristics of the original tearoom and evokes the refined and elegant Edwardian pastime of 'taking tea'.

The quaint eatery will offer a selection of teas, coffees, luxury cakes and pastries for anyone looking for a traditional bite out in east Kent.

The Secret Gardens are encircled by the old town walls, blocking out noise and allowing for serenity in the middle of town.

Pantiles festival back for its second year

ONE of the newest additions to the county's culinary calendar is returning for a second year.

The Pantiles Food and Drink Festival is back at Tunbridge Wells on the weekend of May 19-20.

Supported by Produced in Kent and the county council, as well as by local business, last year's event attracted more than 15,000 people.

About 40 stalls have already been allocated, selling hot and cold food, fresh produce and alcoholic and non-alcoholic drink.

Four chefs from some of the area's most popular dining venues are lined up to display their talents in the demonstration kitchen.

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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

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Ellen Kent is back... with a Puccini pair

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

Tuesday and Wednesday, May 1-2
01892 530613

www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

ELLEN Kent returns to Tunbridge Wells with two Puccini classics – *Madama Butterfly* (on 1st) and *La Bohème* (the following evening). After a two-year break to concentrate on other projects, the opera-producer's comeback tour has proved a triumph and features the Ukrainian National Opera of Kharkiv.

The new production of *La Bohème* features a few surprises alongside the stunning sets and glorious music.

The story is based on Henri Murger's novel *La Vie de Bohème* and focuses on the love between seamstress Mimì and poet Rodolfo. International sopranos Maria Tsonina and Elena Dee take the leading roles.

Puppets know the score Wartime tale

Churchill Theatre, Bromley

Tue to Sat, April 24-28

0208 2908261

www.atgtickets.com/bromley

THE Churchill Theatre is hosting a production of Dick King-Smith's *The Crowstarver*.

Few anticipated the huge success of *War Horse*, which

progressed from a child's book to the stage to an internationally-acclaimed film. Similarly, *The Crowstarver* is written by prolific children's author Dick King Smith and has now been adapted for stage with the use of puppetry. Set in the Second World War, *The Crowstarver* combines an action-packed and heart-warming story with powerful performances, beguiling animal puppets and a stunning score. The cast stars Malcolm Hamilton, one of TV's 118 men. Tickets for the production are priced from £26-£50.



The home that Pugin built Open to all...

The Grange, Ramsgate

Friday to Monday, April 20-23
01628 825925

www.landmarktrust.org.uk

THE Grange in Ramsgate is being opened to the public to celebrate the 200th anniversary of one of its most famous inhabitants.

The Grade I-listed house was designed and lived in by the influential and prolific 19th-century architect and designer Augustus Pugin and in 2012 there will be celebrations to mark the anniversary of his birth. Visitors can see the library, where Pugin designed the House of Lords interiors. It is testament to his skill and influence that many of Britain's Victorian buildings look like The Grange, especially as Pugin built few domestic houses. He also began the construction of St Augustine's monastery next door.

The Grange's £2.6 million restoration was completed by The Landmark Trust in 2006.

A funny night on the Toon Sarah Millican

The Marlowe, Canterbury

Monday, April 23, at 7.30pm

01227 787787

www.marlowetheatre.com



THE new geordie queen of comedy Sarah Millican is bringing her new show to The Marlowe Theatre. Thoroughly Modern Millican is the latest work from the

up-and-coming star, who has already featured heavily on panel shows such as *Never Mind The Buzzcocks* and *Mock The Week*.

The show is a mish-mash of brainwaves and experiments as Millican contemplates how to make a home-made treadmill, the practicalities of an orgy and what to do when you don't like parties but do like party food. After already selling out all 120 dates on her debut tour last year, this new gig, which is suitable for people aged 16 and above, is sure to be a laugh. Tickets are priced at £20.

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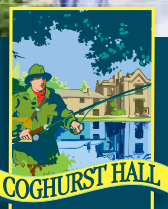
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KENT ATTRACTIONS

Wild nights at top of the list Try the lodge

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www.aspinallfoundation.org

LIVINGSTONE Lodge, the African-themed overnight experience at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, has been listed as a finalist in the Visit England Awards For Excellence 2012.

The attraction is up for an accolade in the Best Tourism Experience category of the awards.

Director Bob O'Connor said: "It is an absolute honour to be nominated as a finalist in this category – these awards really are a credit to the dedicated team who work hard to make this an exceptional product." The winners will be announced on Tuesday, May 22, and all



finalists are guaranteed to receive either a gold, silver, bronze or highly-commended award in their respective categories. Livingstone Lodge offers

visitors a night under the stars and the chance to watch zebras, giraffes and others at the nearby watering hole. The experience includes African fine dining and safaris.



Submariners' tribute Ocelot's 50th birthday

Historic Dockyard, Chatham

Saturday, May 12
01634 823826; www.thedockyard.co.uk

THE Historic Dockyard at Chatham is holding a day to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the launch of HM Submarine Ocelot.

The Ocelot was the last warship built for the Royal Navy at the dockyard, marking the end of 400 years of ship-building.

A church service will be followed by a parade led by the Band of HM Royal Marines, submariners past and present and the Royal Naval Reserve. The opening of a submarine exhibition and the dockyard's new Steam, Steel and Submarines gallery will also take place.

Droves of dreadlocks Reggae's finest head to One Love Festival

The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood

Friday to Sunday, August 10-2
0843 224 9001
www.onelovefestival.co.uk

THE sights and sounds of the Caribbean will transform a slice of Kent during a three-day music festival inspired by Jamaican culture. The fifth One Love Festival, being held at The Hop Farm in Paddock Wood, will be a visual, audio and cultural explosion celebrating 50 years of Jamaican independence as well as some top names from the reggae world. Straight from the West Indies, legend Freddie McGregor and dancehall king Frankie Paul headline the festival, which is also packed full of more new-school dubstep bands. Others making the Caribbean crossing will be Studio 1 singer Cornel Campbell, heavy-beats band Dub Syndicate and son of the legendary Gregory Isaacs, Kevin Issacs. The festival is set across four stages and hosts the largest programme of reggae films ever shown in Europe.

Relive a Tudor coronation Royal romance

Hever Castle, Edenbridge

Saturday to Tuesday, June 2-5
01732 865224
www.hevercastle.co.uk

JUNE will see romantic Hever Castle celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a number of special events. Join the royal celebration as Henry VIII and Anne

Boleyn revisit Anne's coronation in a weekend of Tudor entertainment including have-a-go archery and demonstrations from craftsmen of the period. There will be copies of the crown jewels on show, along with a competition for the best-dressed prince and princess.

The month also sees the English rose garden reach the peak of perfection with the scent of 4,000 roses. You can also take in the Long Gallery's A Royal Romance exhibition.



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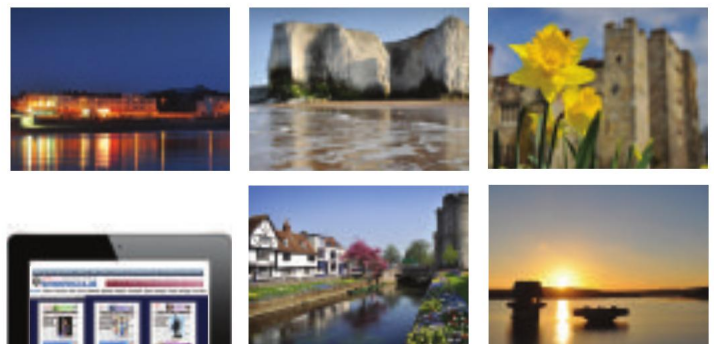


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When life can be a drag... Raining Men

Woodville Halls, Gravesend
Thu to Sat, April 26-28
01474 337774
www.woodvillehalls.com

FOR three nights month it will be raining men in Gravesend as this cracking hit show comes to town.

As part of the theatre's new season of shows, Raining Men promises to give audiences a hilarious, sparkling, naughty evening, featuring music from the likes of Barbra Streisand, Shirley Bassey and Judy Garland.

Described as 'The Full Monty meets Priscilla, Queen of the Desert', the comedy show tells the story of three men: Doug the DJ, Colin the barman and Phil the bouncer. This is a night out that ladies won't want to miss – there'll be dancing in the aisles and unforgettable entertainment.

The comedy is strictly for adults, with strong language and content from the start. Group booking is available; buy nine tickets and get a 10th free.



Put the date in your calendar Stars bare all

**Assembly Hall Theatre,
Tunbridge Wells**
Mon to Sat, October 22-27
01892 530613

THE world-renowned stage show Calendar Girls has been bagged by the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells for later this year. Since opening at Chichester

Festival Theatre in 2008, Calendar Girls has been an unprecedented success, playing more than 100 sell-out weeks across the country. It has become the most successful play to tour the UK, grossing more at the box office than the smash-hit film of the same name, with ticket sales in excess of £25 million.

The production features Birds Of A Feather's Lesley Joseph, EastEnders' Kacey Ainsworth, Emmerdale's Deena Payne and Hi-De-Hi actress Ruth Madoc. Tickets are priced from £18.50-£29.50.



Handel's Messiah The Merry Opera Co

Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs
Sunday, April 29, at 3pm
0845 2626263
info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk

AFTER its sell-out production of La Traviata in Broadstairs last month, Kent-based The Merry Opera Company will perform its moving and unusual staged production of Handel's Messiah.

The group tends to do things a little differently, moving away from traditions such as static soloists and huge choirs reading music. Instead, the show features a cast of just 12 singers and a lot more stage direction.

The production is expected to be of high quality, following the highly-rated La Traviata performances that attracted opera fans from across the county.

Tickets cost £10 in advance and £12 on the day.

Liquid laughs Al Murray's pub landlord

Quarterhouse, Folkestone
Wed and Thu, June 20-21
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First **GEAR**
MOTURING NEWS

- Toyota offers plug-in version of hybrid Prius
- Volvo V40 has world's first pedestrian airbag
- All mod cons on new Venture from Madza



Dealerships unveil the latest Lexus to excited audiences

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

VOLKSWAGEN'S original 1938 Beetle went on to sell 21.5 million units and be assembled in umpteen countries apart from Germany – but it was far from perfect.

However, in an era when people were pleased to have an affordable and distinctive car, it was a surefire winner.

When VW revived the look in the late 90s, though, we ended up with another Beetle far from perfect – in an era flooded with affordable cars.

After the initial nostalgic euphoria, many people realised the New Beetle just didn't look right. Sure the Herbie shape was there and even the vestiges of the original's running boards, but cabin space was wasted by a massive fascia and dashboard, while rear seating, headroom and boot space was piffling.

And somebody decided to add a flower vase to the fascia. Some say it was a penholder, but most people stuck a flower in it and that caused men to avoid buying the car, which was dropped in 2010.

The belated all-new replacement has reverted to the name Beetle, plain and simple – and distancing it from its flower-power predecessor.

The new-generation car doesn't need gimmicks, anyway, though VW-dealers will offer customising add-ons like those other retro stars, the Mini and Fiat 500.

It looks more like the original – again we get an echo of running boards – but there's more of a coupé look like the 1948 original Porsche, the 356, giving it unisex appeal.

Built on the latest Golf platform, it also handles properly and hints at potential hot models to come – a Beetle GTI perhaps?

If the exterior is cool yet retro, the cabin is a great partner; in this car, areas of exposed painted metal are a homage to the original – as is the flip-down glovebox lid – rather than corner-cutting, especially since the materials elsewhere are typically robust and quality VW.

The cabin is more practical this time; rear headroom is naturally restricted by the swooping roofline, but it doesn't feel claustrophobic, even if it is a four-seater.

The only black mark is the elasticated door pocket straps; retro perhaps, but they make it too easy to stuff something in the pocket only to see it exit through the gap below the strap.

In keeping with the sportier image, the entry-level engine is a turbocharged 105PS (104bhp) 1.2-litre petrol with VW's auto/manual DSG box.

Most people will be happy, as it should deliver an average mpg in the mid-40s. It's not speedy, but the engine revs satisfyingly and that gearbox is great for auto-changes in town or smooth manual shifts.

Diesels and a 2.0-litre petrol are in the pipeline, but I also liked the livelier 160PS (158bhp) 1.4-litre petrol engine at launch, which comes with a six-speed manual box.



VW BEETLE

FIRST DRIVE

- Price: £16,490
- Driving appeal: ★★★★★
- Image: ★★★★★
- Space: ★★★★★
- Value: ★★★★★
- Running costs: ★★★★★
- Reliability: ★★★★★
- How green?: ★★★★★
- Best rival: Mini

Herbie rides again as VW's new Beetle echoes original charm



BACK AT THE START: VW's new-look Beetle does away with the quirkiness of the previous model and is a return to the styling that made it one of the most popular cars in the world

“

DON'T LIKE

”

... those door straps, but there's not much to dislike about this latest incarnation of a classic – especially now the flower vase is gone.

“

NOT SURE

”

... the car yet has the power options it needs to distance itself from its effete predecessor, but the omens are good for a future Beetle GTI.

“

REALLY LIKE

”

... the more harmonious use of the original shape with a just a hint of Porsche coupé. It drives well and should get male buyers back onside.

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Coupe with grace executed in style

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FEW cars win plaudits when simply parked up, but the original 2005-10 Mercedes-Benz CLS four-door coupe was one of those rarities.

Having fallen for the car's swooping lines, it wouldn't have mattered to would-be buyers if it had handled like a sofa, with none of the comforts, though it was just as much a star on the move.

So fans may have viewed early images of this icon's replacement with trepidation; lacking the original's unbroken crease line from front wheel arch to tail, the new CLS looked a bit lumpy... less fluid.

Familiarity modifies that though, and there is a compensating aggression about the styling now, while the front is a marked improvement; after a week with the car and many admiring comments, I reckon it's just as much a head turner as its forebear.

The original created a sensation at a time when the once conservative German premium marque had already rocked the industry with some off-the-wall designs.

And though it proved a good seller and halo car for M-B, few rivals managed to attack it properly: VW's CC series is a cheaper equivalent, but lacks such badge cachet, while the recent Audi A7 offers racy looks too, plus a hatchback, but does that feature make it less prestigious than the Merc? Closest in looks and on-road presence, though, is probably the Jaguar XF.

In short, the Merc doesn't have much to rival it as a luxury four-seat, four-door gran turismo, although upmarket versions of its donor model – the Merc E-Class – might also be in the mix for some buyers.

The CLS is well-made and well-appointed, as you would rightly expect for a car starting at £46,860, but the eye-opener is quite how well key models perform versus the fuel they consume for their size.

MERCEDES-BENZ CLS 350 CDI SPORT: PRICE £53,495

FACT FILE



Image: ★★★★★

Space: ★★★★★

Value: ★★★★★

Reliability: ★★★★★

How green?: ★★

Road tax: £170/year

Best rival: Jaguar XF

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COUPE DE GRACE: The new CLS looks different to its predecessor but it is sure to wow drivers

Even the 202bhp four-cylinder 2.1-litre diesel 250CDI is claimed to crack 62mph in just 7.5 seconds; our £53,495 263bhp V6 3.0-litre 350 CDI Sport model takes 6.2 seconds, yet these models are capable of a combined fuel consumption of 54.3 and 46.3mpg respectively – they also attract a relatively modest 18 per cent Benefit in Kind tax (BiK).

But then they do both wear M-B's Blue-Efficiency eco-branding, though this is overshadowed on the 350CDI Sport by big 19-inch AMG alloys and other accoutrements from M-B's famous sports styling house.

Of course, if you need livelier performance there are V6 and V8 petrol versions, including the £81,145 63 AMG flagship, but the fuel and BiK costs may be prohibitive even at this level of ownership.

Whatever the engine, it will be mated with a seven-speed automatic that is seamless in auto and allows smooth manual changes too via paddles mounted behind the steering wheel.

Would you want to? Hopefully, for the CLS is a sure-footed rear wheel drive beast that lives up to its coupe billing, cornering with a flat stance that will please keen drivers, even if the speed-weighted steering can feel a bit light at times.

Passengers won't mind it either judging by the supple yet precise sports suspension fitted to our car – a standard suspension and air suspension is also available, depending on the model.

Comfort levels inside are top-notch with well-shaped leather seats, though bear in mind that this is a strict four-seater, even if the rear pair are spoiled for space.

For this really is a beautiful car for four on a weekend getaway, helped by a big boot capable of swallowing all reasonable luggage.

So, put away any misgivings about losing the spirit of the original CLS – its successor has delivered the 'coupe de grace' with just as much cool.

First GEAR MOTORING NEWS



Plug-in Prius is switched on

TOYOTA has raised the stakes in the hybrid race by offering its pioneering Prius model with a plug-in variant, priced at £27,895 after adding the Government's £5,000 grant for lower-emission vehicles.

The plug-in facility allows owners and businesses to top-up the car's batteries overnight or at the office to increase electric-only operation, thereby cutting fuel costs and emissions.



Volvo's airbag for pedestrians

VOLVO'S eagerly-anticipated mid-size V40 premium hatchback arrives in late summer (from £19,745) and includes a diesel with emissions low enough to escape road tax, and an official combined fuel consumption of 78.5mpg.

This version also has the best Benefit in Kind taxation levels of any car in its class, while the range features the world's first pedestrian airbag.



New venture has six appeal

MAZDA has launched a high-spec special edition Mazda6 (from £21,000) available in hatchback or estate bodystyles.

The Venture includes TomTom navigation and integrated Bluetooth plus distinctive smoked alloys, sports grille, half-leather seats – heated in front – privacy glass and distinctive colours.

Dartford-based Mazda UK is sweetening the deal with zero and 5.9 per cent APR finance.

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New-era Lexus gets county premieres

LEXUS dealers in Kent have previewed the Japanese premium brand's new model – one set to change the face of its line-up.

It's the latest generation Lexus GS mid-range executive saloon, to rival models like the BMW 5-Series, Audi A6 and Mercedes-Benz E-Class, and wearing what is tipped to be the new corporate nose of the Lexus line-up.

Existing and prospective Lexus customers in the county got an early look at the newcomer – which is due in June – when Motorline group dealerships Lexus Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells held VIP evenings last Friday and on Monday respectively, attracting almost 400 people.

Both events featured a jazz band, magician and prize draw to entertain guests, who were also given an expert tour of the car to explain its significant new developments.

Much was made of Lexus value: high-spec but aggressively priced compared with rivals.

Innovations include the standard-fit 12.3-inch full-colour LED screen – the world's widest in-car multimedia display – coated, self-cleaning side front windows for clearer and safer vision via the door mirrors.

All new GS models also come with heated and ventilated seats and increased boot space to rival the opposition: 522 litres, or 465 on hybrid models due to slight intrusion by the battery array. A top-notch 17-speaker Mark Levinson multimedia system is also available.

Paul Stapylton, brand manager for the two Kent sites, said: "Prices start from an attractive £32,995, bringing a lot of car for the money, but



the other great thing about this new GS is that we have four distinct versions to appeal to a wide cross-section of customers.

"At the entry point there's the affordability of the GS250 petrol option, but there's also the GS450 petrol-electric hybrid drive, and we



FIRST SIGHT: Above: Lexus guests get their first look at the new GS model. Left: Lexus Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells brand manager Paul Stapylton introduces the car to an appreciative audience

also have smart F Sport versions with either powertrain. It makes us confident that we can raise our GS sales by quite a margin compared with the outgoing car, and that means we can build on a successful year at our two sites, following the launch of our all-new entry

car, the CT200h executive hatchback hybrid.

"That car delivered many conquest customers who wanted to drive eco but stay premium – many existing customers had already bought into that with our RX450h hybrid SUV, our other big-seller over the past year."

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Sport

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FOOTBALL

Angel ace's Palace send-off as he flips out of game and rolls into gymnastics

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

LIFE after retirement is a common dilemma for sportsmen and women around the world, but that dilemma is made all the more serious when the end of your career is forced upon you as it was for Scott Gooding.

The Tonbridge Angels defender thought he had made the comeback from a serious knee injury, only to break down again just three games into his return over a year ago.

But after going through the heartache of realising his boyhood dream was ending, he has found a new direction in life - gymnastics.

While sidelined with injury as his team mates battle it out in the Blue Square South, the highest division the club has ever reached, he was busy studying so he could join his fiancée in opening up a new gymnastics club.

It's not the traditional road former non-league stars have taken, and Gooding admits his team mates delivered a certain amount of ribbing.

"I have been teaching them the forward rolls, and cartwheels," he said. "They have given me a bit of stick."

"We are going to open a gymnastics club and we have found a building that needs a refurbishment. It's a case of starting from scratch."

Before he starts taking lessons, there is the small matter of a testimonial to get out of the

way, which will see the Angels take on Gooding's first club, Crystal Palace.

He is still in touch with a number of former team mates from Selhurst Park, including their current manager Dougie Freedman, whose children are taught gymnastics by his fiancée.

An Eagles XI will take on the Angels at Longmeadow on Wednesday in a 7.45pm kick off, thanks to the efforts of manager Tommy Warrilow and team mate Robbie Kemba whose dad Steve is a scout for the Championship side.

Gooding started at Palace as an eight-year-old and made two first team appearances, one in a friendly against Bastia in France, and his competitive debut as a sub in a Boxing Day clash at Millwall.

"For them to pull something like this out of the bag is unbelievable."

6699

"I have been teaching my team mates forward rolls, and cartwheels...they have given me a bit of stick."

SCOTT GOODING, FORMER ANGEL

lievable," he said. "They look after you really well at Tonbridge. It should hopefully create a good crowd, and will be a good send off."

"Everybody has been absolutely unbelievable."

It wasn't an easy decision for the 30-year-old to hang up his boots, but doctors told him if he had a recurrence of the injury the only option would be to break his leg in order to fix it, as he had already has his knee ligaments replaced once.

"It was the hardest decision I have ever had to make," he said.

"I was really enjoying it, I was hoping to keep on going for a good few years at this level. It's hard to take."

"It's been a hard, hard time mentally for me."

"I don't feel like a different person, but it's made me a lot stronger mentally. It was really hard to go through."

When he got the news he felt there was only one decision to take.

"There's no point chancing it going again," he said. "I'm walking fine, running, cycling. I can do anything in a straight line, it's the twisting and turning part that's the problem."

Gooding signed for the Angels in 2006 from Gravesend & Northfleet, and left to join Fisher in November 2007, but returned to Longmead in 2008, where he was crowned player of the season for the 2008/09 season.

He also played for AFC Hornchurch and Crawley Town.



Picture: DAVE COULDRIDGE

NEW CHALLENGE: Scott Gooding (centre in blue) has a testimonial against Crystal Palace

MOTORSPORT

Sibling rivalry revs up as Brands gets set to welcome truck racing champs

THERE can't be many sports in the world where you have three brothers performing at the top level.

But British Truck Racing is one that does with the Powell brothers, John, Graham, and Steven, who all hail from Kent.

This weekend John who lives in Herne Bay and Steven, from West Kingsdown, will be at Brands Hatch for the second round of their respective classes in the Delphi British Truck Racing Championship, while Graham will be busying himself at the European Championship this season.

Steven who during his working week is busy pulling pints and working the tables at his pub the Portobello Inn, is making his first step into the A class this season.

Although all the trucks are restricted to 100mph, the change in class represents a

jump in engine power from 600hp to 950hp, which he admits has been making him a bit nervous.

"I have had a few sleepless nights about it," he said. "It's going to be a learning curve."

"The aim is to get it up to scratch this season, and go for the championship the season after."

"Brands Hatch is probably the most stressful one because we have so many people come and watch us. I don't get nervous at any other races."

Steven made the leap into racing after his brother Graham challenged him several years ago.

"My dad used to do it when it first started about 28 years ago and then my brother Graham bought one," he said.

"We used to go along to race meetings

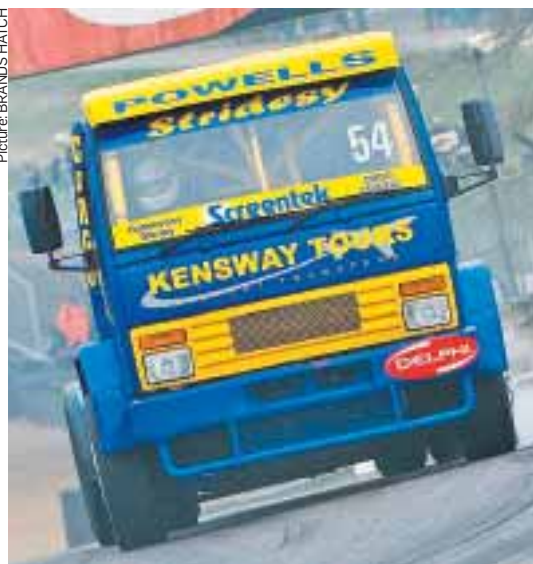
and then we were sat in here (Portobello Inn) one night and he dared me to give it a go."

"So I bought a truck and I've been doing it for about five years now and it's been brilliant fun."

"I never expected to end up as Class B Champion. The first lorry I had wasn't the quickest so I bought my brother's old one and we had three really good seasons before we nicked it last season."

"My sponsors have bought me a new truck and a new engine and now all we're waiting for is a new clutch. With everything we've done, fingers crossed it will all fall into place."

"This could be a testing weekend for us, but hopefully we'll have it all nipped in the bud for when we come back (at Brands Hatch) in November."



Picture: BRANDS HATCH

REVVED UP: Steven Powell in action last season

Sport

For more sports news and pictures go to www.kentsport.co.uk

RUGBY

Sheppey dare to do double in end of season derby day

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

SHEPPEY Rugby Club are looking to do a famous double over their rivals Maidstone in the last game of the season this weekend.

To the outsider it may appear there is nothing to play for with both sides sitting comfortably in mid table in London 3 South East.

But for Sheppey director of rugby Andy Hosken and the club, the game represents a chance to get one over on a side they have rarely played in recent years.

"We are taking it very seriously. It's not just a run out, it's massive," he said. "We have not been in the same league for some time, so there haven't been an awful lot of games in the past.

"For 20 or 30 years they have always been above us, so we want to beat Maidstone and do the double over them. We are treating this as a cup final."

It is the only game being played in the division this weekend as the clash was postponed because of Maidstone's cup run earlier this season, and fortunately none of the players have booked end of season holidays just yet.

Sheppey go into the game on the back of a 20-10 win against already relegated Eastbourne at home last Saturday, which left them in seventh place, while fourth place Maidstone beat Bromley 28-6 in their last match.

Hosken is hoping they can do as they did in the first meeting between the sides earlier this season when they came away with a 17-5 win, but he knows it is going to be a tough game, which



Picture: BOB HAYTON

MASSIVE GAME: Big crowd set to attend what Sheppey will treat as a "cup final"

he expects the forwards to dominate.

"I think we have got a very good chance, it's going to be a hard match," he said. "In terms of our squad we are at full strength.

"We beat Maidstone earlier in the season, they had a poor start compared to us, they have picked up and had a good finish in the league.

"It will be tight, we certainly have got a chance of getting an away victory, that's for sure.

"Both sides are pretty even with their forwards, I'm sure that's where the game will be won and lost. It would be a good away win.

"I think the away support should be good, it's not the hardest journey in the world."

FOOTBALL

One point will save Brickies from the relegation trapdoor

IT'S been a miserable run of form since 2012 dawned, but Sittingbourne can finally put a smile on their fans' faces this weekend.

The Brickies host play-off hopefuls Godalming knowing that they need just one point to send down Burgess Hill and Whyteleafe.

The duo are both six points adrift with two games to go, but only Whyteleafe are likely to catch Joe Dowley's men as they have a goal difference two better.

Burgess Hill are almost certain to be relegated unless they score 20 or more goals in their remaining games.

The Brickies go into the game after a 4-1 loss at Folkestone Invicta last Saturday, and without a win in their last 14 games which has seen them slide towards the bottom of the table.

Attendances have disappointing this season, but chairman Andy Spice is hoping for a bumper turnout on Saturday to spur the side over the finishing line.

"Obviously we want to get as many along to support the club, we need that extra support," he said.

"We need three more points. It's



BRICKIES: Relegation threatened

not going to be easy without a doubt.

"If we have got a bit of support it gives you that extra push on.

"If the players see there are no supporters it makes a big difference psychologically."

Kick-off on Saturday at Central Park is 3pm.

FOOTBALL

Lilywhites hoping to dent Dulwich's title dream

FAVERSHAM Town boss Ray Turner is hoping his side can spoil the promotion party at Dulwich Hamlet on Saturday by claiming an unlikely win.

Second place Dulwich were one of the more impressive performers at Faversham this season when they claimed a 3-0 win.

And they host Turner's side knowing they need to win to keep pressure on Bognor Regis in top spot.

"They are going for the title," he said. "They are going to need to win. There will probably be a big crowd.

"We are going to need to be at our best.

"Once they get control of the game it becomes very difficult.

"We are going to have to defend very well. We have got to try to work hard and make them make mistakes in their own half, and then when they break we have got to get behind the ball.

"The players will be aware it is a big game, and I am hoping we can do ourselves justice."

The squad go into the game on the back of a disappointing result



TURNER: Players owe performance

against Whitstable Town at the weekend, when the lost 2-0 despite hitting the bar and post, and having a chance cleared off the line.

"I was disappointed for the fans," said Turner.

"We felt like they were a little bit let down by the players.

"At the moment we are not scoring when we are on top.

"We are lacking in a bit of confidence.

"The players owe the supporters a performance."

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS

WITH FRED ATKINS

Heroism is not what it was

“IT'S possible you never expected to read the words "Dermot O'Leary" and "startling insight" in the same article, let alone the same paragraph, but earlier this year he produced a genuinely revealing interview with Thierry Henry on the concept of heroism.

As a television presenter who normally deals exclusively in the vacuous, O'Leary confessed that while Henry was his hero, he was at an age where he couldn't worship footballers any more, and the player agreed saying statues should be for war heroes.

Yet if you're of a certain age and follow Ashford, Dover, Hythe, Folkestone, Maidstone, or Margate the chances are that a former Royal Marine called Frank Ovard will be one of your heroes.

I've no idea what his military record was but as a footballer he was a complete one-off, capable of dribbling his way around an entire team.

He had the talent to play professionally, but his only spell in the Football League ended in failure because Gillingham wanted him to conform to their system, which was a bit like hiring Jimi Hendrix and constricting him to play three chords.

Yet what he's arguably most remembered for is an ability to "earn" penalties.

As soon as he entered the penalty area Ovard simply dragged one across the other and collapsed in a heap. He made Ashley Young look like Willem Defoe in the film Platoon, somehow staying on his feet even though he'd been shot so many times he looked like a garden sprinkler.

Ovard had a reputation and yet a staggering number of referees still awarded him penalties in his career.

What's striking now is that nobody ever seemed to mind. Young, like Henry, has been pilloried for diving and yet when Ovard hit the deck it only ever seemed to provoke knowing laughter from the team he was playing for and eye-rolling resignation from the opposition.

One reason is because he usually only played in front of a few hundred fans and while it's possible there might be some television footage of him locked in a vault somewhere, there's no readily available visual evidence - which sadly means there's also no footage of some of the great goals he scored.

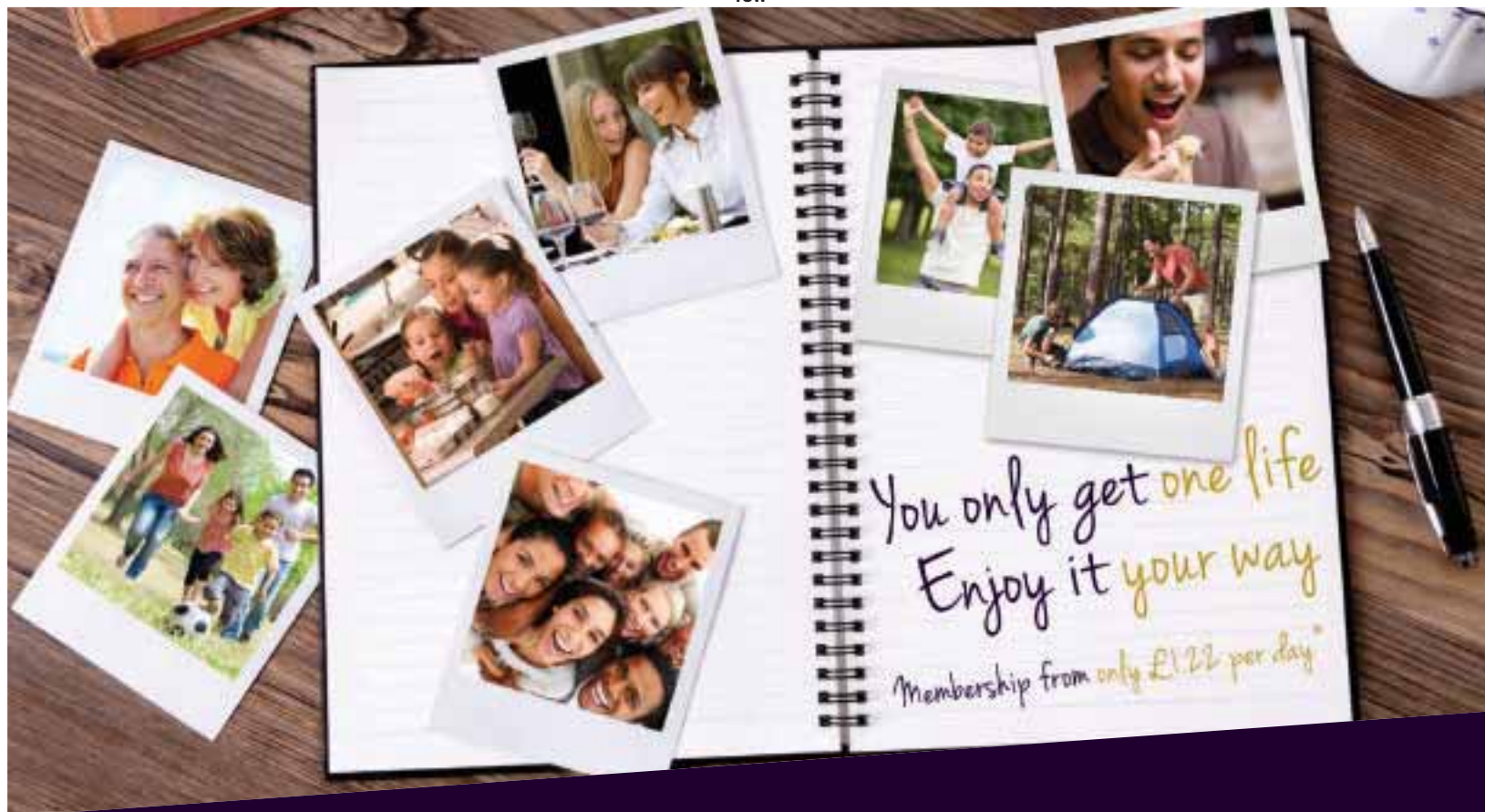
Another is that although he dived he didn't compound the crime by furiously instructing the referee to send the innocent defender off.

Perhaps this is because he didn't take football that seriously (although it's said he once punched a hole through a wooden door after losing a Kent Senior Cup tie).

As the man himself once said, when reflecting on the end of his career: "I still went down. I just took longer to get up."

I can still admire great players but I'll never think of them in the way I thought of Ovard. And as I'm the same age as O'Leary that's probably just as well.

”



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